

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Easy glider...
Ronald Faux looks at the new emphasis on safety in hang-gliding.

On the road...
A journey that rediscovers the splendours of old Syria.

With a backpack...
How to make light work of a long walk.



Wheeling...
The second part of the competition with a Ford Sierra XR4i as first prize.

Dealing...
The writer in Stalin's pocket: the extraordinary story of Soviet apologist Alexei Tolstoy.

Revealing...
The costs of differential mortgages, in which interest charges are higher for bigger borrowers.

Social work to open its records

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records, under guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Security in a move which overturns decades of social work practice. **Page 3**

Spain by-passes Maltese tactics

Spain is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to meet in Madrid next month, despite Malta's obstructionist tactics. **Page 4**

Maxwell rebuff

Three institutional shareholders of the John Waddington games manufacturer have withdrawn their acceptance to the takeover offer from Mr Robert Maxwell's BPCF shortly before he was expected to announce he had won control. **Page 13**

Walesa chaired

Lech Walesa was carried on the shoulders of chanting supporters after a stormy meeting at the Gdansk shipyard called by the government to explain its policies. Minister Jerred, **page 5**

Murder charge

Two leaders of the Ulster Defence Association were arrested as a man was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drumm, of Provisional Sinn Féin, in hospital, seven years ago. **Page 2**

Beirut blasts

A French soldier was killed and eight others injured in an explosion in Beirut. Another blast at the Air France office in Beirut killed three Lebanese. **Page 4**

Trudeau in peril

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, is facing a clamour from his Liberal Party backbenchers for his resignation. **Page 5**

Scientific talks

The meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science are reported on **page 2**.

Football trio

Scotland want to invite a leading world football country to take part in a three-cornered tournament with England to replace the Home Championship, which is being discontinued. **Page 17**

British gold

Adrian Moorhouse, aged 19, won Britain's first gold medal at the European swimming championships at Rome in the 200 metres breaststroke. **Page 16**

Leader page 9

Letters: On the Liberals, from Mr M Meadowcroft, MP, and Lord Beaumont of Whitley; university research, from Professor J M Thomas, FRSE.

Leading articles: Mitterrand and Chad; Prisoners in foreign jails; BA goes to law; Making sense of the crime figures; Pakistan's simmering province; Images to impress the voter; Spectrum: the condition of American blacks; Friday page: what children really think of their holidays; Obituary, **page 10**; Mr J Cleveland Bell.

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Two pits closed in swift action to test militants

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday issued its long-expected challenge to miners' leaders by announcing the immediate closure of two pits in militant coalfields regarded as test cases in the battle over economic collieries.

In the last days of Sir Norman Siddall's chairmanship of the board the industry's senior management has dismissed appeals against the shutdown of Cardowan pit near Glasgow and Brynllw mine near Swansea, employing a total of 1,400 men.

Plumets at Cardowan are holding a secret ballot to decide whether they will continue their opposition to the closure. Mr Alec Hogg, delegate of the National Union of Mineworkers there, said that if the men voted for industrial action the colliery could be occupied.

In South Wales, the NUM area executive meets today to discuss the union's next step following the "complete shock" registered locally by the closure decision.

However, the board is moving swiftly to head off a possible confrontation by ceasing coal production at Cardowan today and putting the mine on a salvage basis from Monday. Priority is being given to the transfer of men to other Scottish pits.

In the absence of Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, who is in Moscow on union business, a spokesman at union headquarters in Sheffield accused the board of "losing all sense of reason".

It was becoming "brutally clear" that the board was

operating to a government dictate to hit miners' jobs as hard as possible, he said.

"As with all bullies, they will only stop when the membership hit back," he added. The opportunity for the NUM to do so will come on September 15, when the national executive meets to decide whether the time is "appropriate" to hold a secret ballot in the hope of securing a 45 per cent majority for strike action.

The initial response of union leaders yesterday, however, was cautious and points away from an early appeal for industrial action. Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scottish miners, said that he would be seeking national talks to defend Cardowan. Its closure would be top of the agenda at next month's executive meeting.

By then the pit is likely to be shut. Of the original workforce of 1,090, about 70 have been transferred and another 30 have volunteered for redundancy. The board says that about 150 men will be kept in for salvage work and the rest will be offered jobs in the Fife Coalfield.

Mr Albert Wheeler, director of the Scottish area, said: "We now want to get these men into our more productive collieries so they can make a contribution to the area's drive for higher productivity and to improve the profitability of our pits. Older men who have given a lifetime of service to the industry can take advantage of our voluntary redundancy scheme."

A similar battle over the fate of Kinnell colliery in Scotland ended in defeat for the union over the Christmas holiday

period, and the board's main headache may be in South Wales.

Brynllw, which employs about 800 men, must close even though it has substantial reserves because it is losing £52 on every tonne brought out of the pit, the board argues. In 1983-84 it is projected to lose £6.5m and its market at an electricity generating station nearby, also scheduled to close, has collapsed.

Leaders of the South Wales miners meet today to decide whether to call for industrial action.

Mr Don Hayward, union financial secretary of the area, argued last night that the case for Brynllw was "easy iron". It had between ten and 15 years of coal reserves "and if they close Brynllw, they can threaten any colliery in the British coalfield", he claimed.

In a farewell message to the industry, Sir Norman said last night that progress was being made in the fight to become more efficient. But he insisted that the board must move out of "high cost mining capacity" to avoid further losses.

"Last year 12 per cent of output lost £275m—almost three quarters of the £374 deficit granted by the Government. That is a drain on the rest of the industry. It has to be remedied with as little hardship as possible to the people involved", he said.

His place will be taken by Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, next Thursday. He is expected to take a strong line with the unions.

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France is ready to fight the Libyan-backed rebels in Chad if they launch a new offensive against President Hissene Habré's forces, President Mitterrand stated yesterday.

While insisting that France wants a negotiated settlement, he confirmed his total opposition to any settlement involving the partition of Chad. However, he left deliberately unclear what France's response would be to any attempt by President Habré to recapture the key town of Faya-Largeau in the Libyan-occupied northern half of the country.

Earlier this week, the Chadian Government announced that it would ask France for military help when it was ready to launch its counter-offensive against Faya-Largeau.

Mitterrand insisted yesterday that the French troops "cannot be considered as an auxiliary force subject to a strategy in whose determination they have no part".

"We must now harmonize our actions. Since France's presence is considered necessary, it must be understood that she will only go where she wishes in the joint interests that she is trying to serve," The President added.

M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, flew to Ndjamena at the President's request yesterday, officially "in order to inspect the French troops." However, it is expected that he will also hold talks with

President Habré to try to convince him of the desirability of avoiding further conflict in the interests of reaching a negotiated settlement.

Breaking his silence on the Chadian conflict for the first time since French troops were sent to Ndjamena at the beginning of August, Mitterrand said in an interview with *Le Monde* that the troops were continuing to fulfil France's obligations under its 1976 treaty with Chad simply to provide instruction and logistical help without engaging in any fighting. Not a single shot had been fired by a French soldier so far.

They were also fulfilling a "deterrent role for whoever might want to approach the zone where we are."

As the same time Mr Jones released a copy of a letter from the New York club dated June 11, 1982, signed by the secretary of the America's Cup Committee, in which the Australia II syndicate was cleared to use the Netherlands Ship Model Basin tank testing facilities.

Mr Jones revealed he had been notified by telex by Dr Peter van Oomsanen that on Wednesday, Mr Richard Latham, a member of the New York club committee, and Mr Will Valentijn, a close relative of the designer for the US Liberty/Freedom syndicate, gave him an Affidavit containing incorrect statements attempting to suggest that Mr Lexcen was not solely responsible for the design of Australia II.

Mr van Oomsanen said the charges contained in the affidavit were untrue and he refused to sign it. He said he had previously informed the New York Club that Mr Lexcen was the sole designer.

Mr Jones said he was angered by the New York club's latest attempt to avoid racing Australia II by casting doubt on the Australian yacht's right to compete. Australia II contests the elimination final in a best of seven races with the Royal Burmah challenger, Victory 83, starting on Sunday.

Legal moves, **page 18**

Cup yacht designer may sue

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

Mr Ben Lexcen, designer of the controversial Royal Perth Yacht Club challenger for the America's Cup, Australia II, is considering legal action against the New York Yacht Club, defenders of the trophy.

In the latest hostilities caused by the New York Yacht Club's repeated attempts to discredit the Australian boat, Mr Warren Jones, executive director for the Australia II syndicate, yesterday revealed that the New York club's agents tried to persuade a Dutch boatyard official to sign an affidavit swearing incorrectly that Australia II was not designed by Mr Lexcen.

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Legal moves, **page 18**

Oil drum raft's skipper saved by Spanish ship

By Richard Evans

Gunther Miesef, the madcap German seafarer given up for dead after his empty oil drum raft, complete with bicycle, was found in the Bay of Biscay last weekend, is safe and well.

The lone sailor, who was sighted off Devon earlier this month during his bid to sail from Germany to Portugal, had been picked up by a Spanish ship, the *Jata Mendí*.

His weird craft—called *Das Ding* (The Thing)—consisted of

bits of wood, metal and oil drums lashed together, with a bicycle tied to the makeshift deck.

French search and rescue officials told Falmouth coastguards last night that *The Thing's* skipper was recovered safe and sound.

Mr Michael Clouston, a Falmouth coastguard, said last night: "Apart from being extremely foolish he is extremely lucky."

American women hopping mad at bunny gibe

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

He has come in for strong criticism from women's organizations because of some disparaging references made by officials about Miss Barbara Honneger, a former Justice Department official who has created a storm by assailing the Administration's record on women's rights.

In what would appear to be an attempt to discredit Miss Honneger, who headed a task force looking into sexually discriminating legislation, government spokesmen have referred to her as "a low-level muckraker" and an "Easter bunny".

Mr Larry Speakes, the White

House spokesman, said that the last time he recalled seeing Miss Honneger was when she was dressed up as "an Easter bunny in the White House Easter egg roll".

In an attempt to be funny which left many White House reporters grinning, he added: "It was quite an admirable thing to do. It is not easy to dress up in that hot bunny suit. I've never done it, and I'm sort of ashamed to admit it."

Miss Honneger, who has become something of a folk hero among women's groups since her critique on the Administration's record appeared in *The Washington Post*



President Reagan: Plagued by the "gender gap".

last Sunday, immediately retorted: "Do you think they'd try to do this to a man? I can't believe it...they're real scared."

Union poll reveals massive support for secret ballots

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government's assertions that its proposed trade union law reforms have the backing of rank and file union members received significant support yesterday from an internal union poll which showed that an overwhelming number of members supported the introduction of secret ballots for strike votes and the election of executives.

The survey of members of the TUC-affiliated Inland Revenue Staff Federation (IRSF) is likely to prove an embarrassment to the union movement's campaign against the latest union curbs proposed by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Tebbit's proposals, and the question whether or not the unions should enter talks with him, will be major controversies at the TUC congress in Blackpool in ten days and ministers are certain to capitalize on the union study showing that 94 per cent of its members think a secret ballot should be held before industrial action is called.

In a further question in the opinion poll, conducted for the union by a firm of industrial communications consultants,

between 63 per cent and 75 per cent, depending on their grade, supported secret ballots for election of the union executives.

The 65,000-strong IRSF has a tradition of being a moderate union, but during the 1981 civil service strikes it was at the forefront of the industrial action and was able to claim stronger membership support for the pay campaign than most of the eight other unions involved.

Union leaders argued last night that the poll should not be interpreted as complete membership support for the Tebbit proposals because it covered a wide range of issues, including calls for greater industrial democracy, which were ignored by the White Paper last month.

Mr Tebbit intends to introduce a Bill during the next parliamentary session covering compulsory secret ballots. It is likely that next month's Congress will authorize talks with the minister on his proposals, but only on the basis of continued opposition to the curbs.

Mr Anthony Christopher, general secretary of the IRSF, who is a member of the TUC general council, said last night that "in a very simple sense"

the study could be taken as backing for the Government's plans but the legislation proposed "displayed an abysmal ignorance of the way unions are run".

He announced that the IRSF executive would be taking immediate action to implement recommendations of the poll although the final decision will rest with a special union conference in December. If there is conference support, the principle of pre-strike secret ballots will be adopted straight away.

The importance of the survey can be gauged from the fact that Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, issued a statement welcoming it, and Mr Patrick Lowry, chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, was at yesterday's news conference which unveiled the findings.

Mr Murray said the survey showed "the capacity of unions to take account of the interests and concerns of their own particular membership". The Tebbit approach, which aimed to impose uniformity, was likely to be counter-productive, he said.

350 jailed Britons may be sent home

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The first step towards transferring to British jails hundreds of Britons held in foreign prisons was taken by the Government yesterday when Mr Christopher Lush, Britain's Ambassador to the Council of Europe, signed in Strasbourg the Council's convention on the repatriation of prisoners.

The Government now proposes to introduce legislation as soon as possible to ratify the convention.

Thirteen other countries have signed including Canada and the United States. Another signatory is Spain where 70 prisoners are on the case-load of the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad. Britain intends to make bilateral agreements with other countries.

The council estimates that about 1,000 British subjects are imprisoned abroad for criminal offences.

According to official British

estimates there are 350 British subjects eligible for transfer from countries which have already signed the convention.

A total of about 530 foreign nationals are held in British jails, 320 of them from countries covered by the convention. Agreement to repatriate has to be given in each case by the prisoner and two countries involved. It is not expected to include the transfer of terrorists.

Under the convention, a prisoner must have at least six months of his sentence left to serve and be a national of the state to which he is to be transferred. No appeal against sentence or conviction must be outstanding and the normal time limit for appeal must have expired.

The Home Office said yesterday that the contents of the convention would be considered.

Briton in Saudi jail, **page 3**
Leading article, **page 9**

Thatcher sees Alliance threat

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister has changed her view about the future of the Labour Party, with a clear suggestion that she now sees the Social Democratic Party-Liberal Alliance as "the true opposition" to the Conservative Party.

During the election campaign on June 3, Mrs Thatcher said: "The Labour Party will not die. The Labour Party will never die. If you want a good opposition you have got to reform the Labour Party, as Gaitskell was trying to do, to take away the state socialism."

But in an interview in the latest edition of the *Director* magazine, published today, she suggests that Labour will never again take office.

Mrs Thatcher says: "Socialism and Britain go ill together. It is not the British character. I believe that the Labour Party went wrong when the 'wets' were sold nationalization and central state control as part of their philosophy."

"Therefore, when the Conservative Party took over the basic welfare state, which we have done, the Labour Party found the only place it could go was to get more and more state control, and more and more reliance on government for housing and for jobs, until people became the pawns of government. Freedom was sold down the river."

"I am going to make sure that does not come back. In the United States you have two parties based on free enterprise, freedom and justice. Here, the two main parties have two fundamentally different philosophies."

But the Prime Minister goes on to say that the Labour Party, in her own terms, is moving further and further beyond political competition.

She says: "Socialists have always seemed to me to assume that other people were creating a world for them to distribute. And now the Labour Party is going further and further socialist."

"It wants to control the lives of people more and more. They don't want to sell council houses; they want to rent where people live and what rent they should pay. They expand the public sector, so they can say: 'You have to vote for me because your job depends upon it.'"

Her interviewer asks: "The true opposition to you would be what?"

The Prime Minister replies: "Well, a different way of achieving the same objective."

She is asked: "Within the same framework of free enterprise?" She replies: "Yes, yes."

Mr Roy Jenkins, former leader of the Social Democratic Party, commented yesterday on the remarks that Mrs Thatcher had made during the election campaign: "She wanted Labour to be the main party of

Continued on back page, col 1



Ian Botham hitting a six on his way to his first century for England in 22 innings. Report **page 16**. (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Follow the Leader

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Task force sails into dispute

The Royal Navy will be left with only eight frigates and destroyers to guard Britain's approaches to the North Atlantic when a task force leaves for New Zealand next week, it was claimed last night.

The claim, in a Press Association report, was queried however, by senior naval sources.

The aircraft carrier *Invincible* will lead a destroyer, five frigates and five supply vessels on a deployment which will last until next spring.

The report quotes "authoritative sources" as describing the absence as a "calculated risk". It adds that 12 more warships are committed to Falklands Islands duties, three are in the Caribbean and one is in the Gulf.

Official sources added last night that the deployment had been authorized only after consultation with Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia.

Flagpole tied up in red tape

Villagers in Salsburgh, Co Durham, have been given permission to put a flagpole on their village green to celebrate the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales - more than two years late.

The parish, near Darlington, blames bureaucracy for the delay. The flagpole needed special authority because it is to be put up in a conservation area. Darlington Borough Council still has to give planning approval for the scheme but the flagpole may be up next year.

Cable TV firm plans arts show

A daily four-hour television arts programme is being compiled for cable television operators by British Cable Programmes, which expects to inject £2m a year in fee payments into British music and drama.

The Government has invited applications for 12 pilot multi-channel cable television franchises.

Thatcher to join world phone-in

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will become the first national leader to take part in a world-wide radio phone-in this autumn when she answers questions for 30 minutes from listeners to the BBC World Service.

Strike at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant halts production

A strike by 1,800 assembly workers at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port car factory in Merseyside brought production to a standstill yesterday.

The men are believed to have taken their action after instructions from Coventry, where negotiators from the Transport and General Workers' Union are discussing the company's annual pay claim, with the management.

All car assembly work at the factory was brought to a halt, although the remainder of the 5,150 employees at the factory remained at their posts.

The men on strike are demanding a £25 wage increase across the board, a reduction in working hours, increased overtime payments and improved sickness and holiday benefits.

The Ellesmere Port factory normally produces 38 vehicles an hour: 20 Astra cars, ten Astra vans and eight Chevettes.

A week-long strike by 1,300 boilermakers at Cammell Laird shipbuilders in Birkenhead Merseyside, ended yesterday

afternoon. The men had walked out in a dispute over work being brought into the shipyard from an outside contractor. They took strike action after 40 of their colleagues lost their pay for refusing to handle welded steel units supplied from outside.

The boilermakers, members of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, decided to accept a peace document produced after a week of negotiation with the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

The company has agreed to put the 40 men back on full pay, and according to a union official, the firm has conceded that it was wrong to use outside contractors without consultation.

Negotiations are to continue on the question of the men's pay since the management took action against them.

The ending of the strike will renew the yard's hopes of winning a Royal Navy order for a Type 22 destroyer. Failure to

win new contracts by next spring could mean 1,400 redundancies as part of British Shipbuilders' cuts across the industry.

Cammell Laird's managing director, Mr Alistair Lamb, said that the boilermakers' decision to go back was vital to the yard's future.

"It was an unnecessary dispute, but the men made a very necessary decision for the survival interests of the yard. It must be welcomed that the men have recognized that," he said.

Shipyard workers who brought work on a Royal Navy destroyer to a standstill on Wednesday agreed to return to work "under protest" after a mass meeting yesterday.

About 270 semi-skilled men had walked out at Swan Hunter's Neptune yard on the Tyne in a dispute over redundancies and the stoppage spread to the rest of the workforce.

A Swan Hunter spokesman said he was optimistic that the issue could be resolved.

Dismissed journalists wait on talks

By Ronald Faux

Three hundred journalists in Manchester dismissed by Express Newspapers over a Christmas working disagreement were last night awaiting the outcome of negotiations in London between the management and officials of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ).

The journalists work on the *Daily Star*, the northern editions of the *Daily Express* and the *Scottish Sunday Express*. They had refused to leave a mandatory union meeting on Wednesday at which they narrowly rejected a management offer to "buy out" their right not to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. About half the members were at the meeting when they learnt that all journalists working for Express Newspapers in Manchester had been dismissed.

The union said last night that it had accepted part of a pay deal amounting to about 5 per cent but refused to give up the right not to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for a £250 leap sum.

Wary union support for youth scheme

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government is assured of continued trade union support for the controversial £1,000m Youth Training Scheme (YTS) after the publication today of a TUC guide which urges cooperation.

TUC commitment to the scheme will be questioned at the annual congress in Blackpool early next month, but unions are expected to give their support, with some qualifications, and will continue to press for improvements.

The guidelines were seen by opponents of the YTS as an attempt to undermine opposition at Blackpool, but most of the attention during the training debate will be focused on ways of ensuring that youngsters on the scheme receive the highest possible allowance, and join unions.

The Manpower Service Commission has promised places on the scheme by Christmas to all unemployed school leavers aged 16. Each trainee will receive a £25 a week allowance for the year's vocational training.

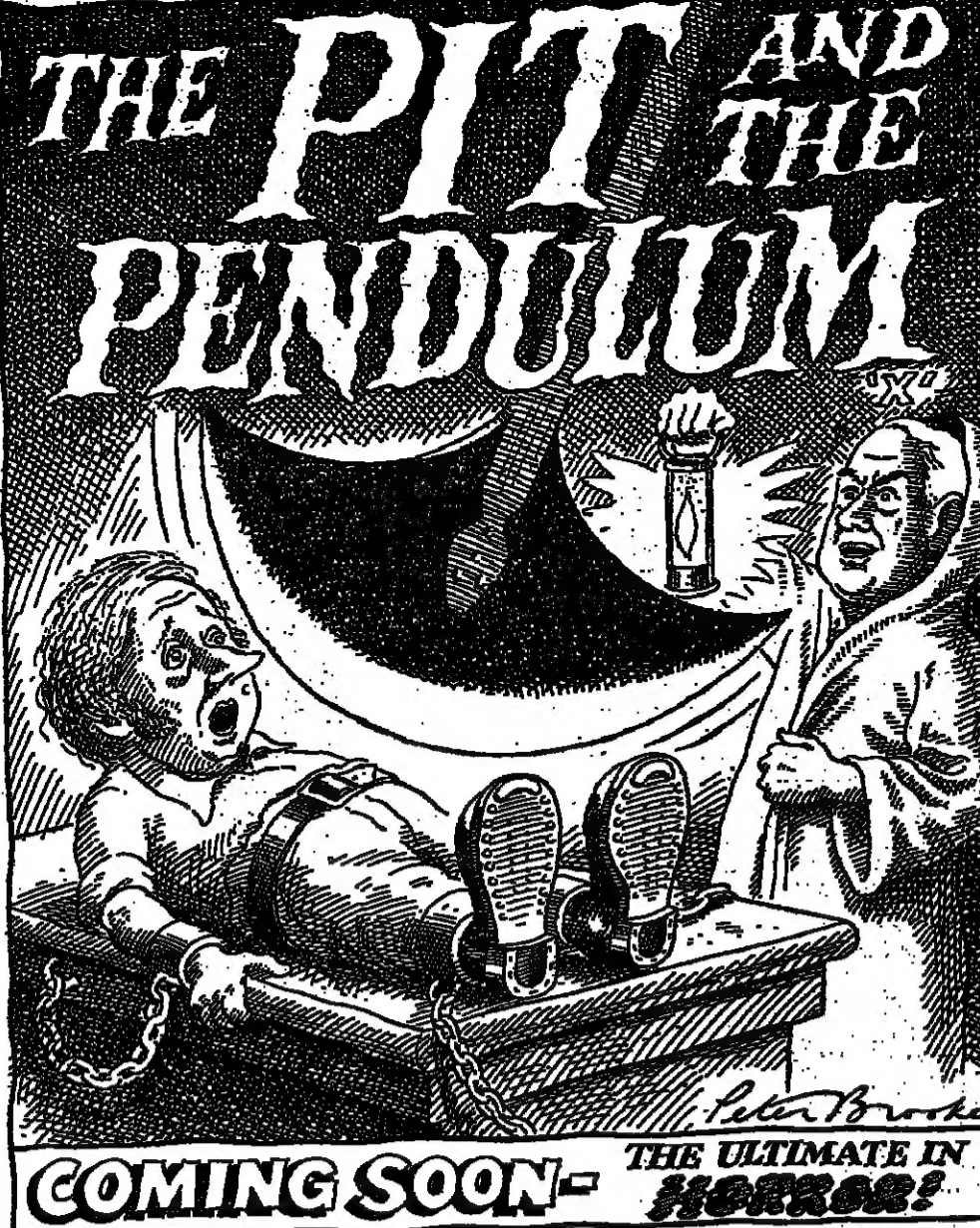
Launching the guidelines, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the scheme

would help young people towards a career, but some employers might try to exploit it financially and others might not have the necessary training expertise.

A meeting of leaders of 14 unions which have either motions or amendments on YTS at the Blackpool congress has failed to reach an all-embracing motion for the Congress, so delegates will have to choose between one motion critical of the principle of the scheme and a second supporting it with qualifications.

The National Graphical Association wants the TUC to reconsider its support for the scheme because it claims it is being used by the Government to create "a pool of cheap labour". The alternative motion, sponsored chiefly by teachers' organizations calls for stronger union participation and local monitoring of schemes.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, has resisted union pressure to increase the weekly allowance to £26.75 in line with an MSC recommendation.



COMING SOON - THE ULTIMATE IN HORROR!

Court to hear BA appeal for shuttle ruling

By a Staff Reporter

British Airways' High Court application for a ruling on British Midland Airways' plan to operate a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast is expected to be heard today.

BA hopes to prevent its independent rival from competing on the route, after the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to grant British Midland a licence.

If the application succeeds the hearing is expected to be held in October, probably in open court. The case will challenge the CAA's interpretation of the Civil Aviation Act, 1980, in granting British Midland a licence.

Behind the legal move lies the independent airline's recent success in capturing a third of the shuttle traffic to Scotland from BA.

Meacher puts case for minimum wage

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Mr Michael Meacher yesterday abandoned his conciliatory tone in Labour's deputy leadership contest and said his rival, Mr Roy Hattersley, had resorted to a 10-year-old idea, by advocating an index of poverty.

He said: "There is nothing wrong with the idea. The problem is mobilising the political support to do something about it."

Mr Meacher, who has campaigned against low pay by speaking at a London meeting organized by the Low Pay Unit, the Fabian Society and the National Union of Public Employees, which is balloting members with an executive recommendation to support him.

He said the only solution to low pay was a national minimum wage. Well before the next election the Labour Party and

UDA man accused of hospital murder

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Two leading members of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) were arrested by detectives yesterday as a one-time member of the Protestant paramilitary organization was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drumm, aged 56, the former vice-president of Provisional Sinn Féin, seven years ago.

Mrs Drumm was shot dead in 1976 while in hospital, recovering from an eye operation.

Andrew Tyrre, commander of the UDA, with John McMichael, chairman of the organization's political wing, and two others, were being questioned at Catteragh holding centre under the province's anti-terrorism laws after being held in dawn raids.

Under emergency legislation police can hold the four people for up to seven days before either charging them or setting them free.

Hours after the arrests UDA sources alleged that Stanley Smith, aged 23, who is accused of murdering Mrs Drumm, had become an informer. His parents and married sister moved from their home in north Belfast to new addresses early yesterday with police in attendance to prevent any trouble.

The RUC deny they have been taken into police protective custody, but by moving away the family seem to fear retaliation by extreme loyalist paramilitaries, who in the past have planted small bombs and fired shots at the homes of relatives of alleged informers.

Mr Tyrre, aged 42, is at present on bail charged with conspiring to possess information likely to be of use to terrorists. He was arrested at his home.

At the same time, Mr McMichael, aged 35, who stood for the Ulster Loyalist Democratic Party in the Belfast South by-election last year, went with police from his home in Lisburn.

At Belfast Magistrates Court, Mr Smith, from the Crumlin Road area, was accused of the murder of Mrs Drumm. He faces 11 other terrorist charges, including possession of a gun and ammunition but those were not put to him at the preliminary hearing.

When charged Mr Smith, who was 16 at the time of the murder, had nothing to say. After a lawyer for the defence indicated there was a prima facie case to answer he was sent for trial to Belfast Crown Court.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION



Spending on research up despite recession

Industry has increased its expenditure on research and development during the past five years, in spite of the economic recession, according to a survey of research and development in Britain.

The finding that companies have not cut back on research in response to hard times is a surprising contrast both to their behaviour during the first half of the 1970s when research and development in industry fell by 11 per cent, and to recent talk of declining industrial research.

The survey was carried out by the Technical Change Centre (TCC) in London for the British Association.

"The mood of pessimism about industrial research and development has been excessive," Mr Ted Butler and Sir Bruce Williams of the TCC reported last night when they presented the first results of their science audit. Their figures are more recent than the official statistics on research and development which, they said, were inadequate and published very late.

The TCC's main source of information on research in industry was the Department of Trade and Industry, which made available preliminary results of its 1981 survey on the subject. Those have not been published by the Government because the results have not yet been analysed.

Industry spent 63.5 per cent more on research and development in 1981 than in 1978, the year of the last published official survey. In that time research costs are estimated to have risen by 55 per cent, leaving a real increase in spending of about 5 per cent.

The TCC team is also investigating university research and development where it has found that "the amount of information about research expenditure is pathetically small and late in its publication".

Spotlight on leopards

Defence policy 'based on myth of Soviet threat'

Reports by Pearce Wright, Clive Cookson and Lucy Hodges

Britain's nuclear defence policy is based on a series of myths and false perceptions, according to evidence presented to the BA meeting yesterday by an expert in peace and conflict research.

The "Soviet threat" has become an important justification for the British nuclear deterrent. Yet, according to Dr Paul Smoker, of Lancaster University, independent studies of Soviet and Western interventions in wars and conflicts since the Second World War show "that if the Soviet threat is cause for concern then the Western threat is at least ten times more serious".

One study showed that the Western countries intervened in 64 wars between 1945 and 1976, while the Soviet Union and its allies took part in six. (Only direct military intervention was counted, not arms sales, technical or political assistance or technology transfer.)

A different analysis cited by Dr Smoker looked at foreign intervention in 641 post-war conflicts (defined more broadly this time to include coups and large civil disturbances as well as wars). Western nations intervened on 243 occasions, and the Communist countries, including North Vietnam, Cuba, China and the Warsaw Pact nations, only on 20.

"Of course it can be argued that the Soviet threat manifests itself in other ways such as arms sales, training of military personnel and spying, and there is probably some truth in this assertion," Dr Smoker said.

"It is almost certainly the case that similar activities by Western nations also constitute a component of the Western threat and that comparative studies of the relative use of such procedures would not necessarily find the Soviet threat to be greater".

Dr Smoker, who is at the Richardson Institute for Conflict and Peace Research at Lancaster, challenged the related assumption that the nuclear deterrent is responsible for the very low level of warfare in Europe and the absence of a great power war.

Historical evidence showed that important wars in Europe, and between great powers, have been occurring with steadily decreasing frequency over the past 400 years, though when one does happen it is increasingly destructive. According to that trend, Dr Smoker argued,

Planet of iron



Finding out: A girl examines air and water with a jar in a fish tank. The British Association is starting a campaign to interest primary school children in science, including an awards scheme (Photograph: David Hodge).

Beating drum for ear trumpet

Ear trumpet 'still effective hearing aid'

The old-fashioned ear trumpet is still one of the most effective aids for the hard of hearing, Mr Michael Martin, head of the scientific and technical department of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, said yesterday.

Outlining progress in better electronic aids, he said that the disability often was not one of hearing what was said, but of not understanding speech, even though it was loud enough. Significant developments in hearing aids were "few and far between".

In spite of intense research, the conventional hearing aid was still the only viable device generally available.

Medical research groups working on better designs for artificial arms and electronically-controlled hands faced a hurdle which was not, strictly speaking, a scientific one, Dr Ian Fletcher, senior medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security's limb fitting centre in Roehampton, south-west London, told the meeting.

The finer art of forecasting

The Meteorological Office is developing a system for forecasting rainfall with far more local detail than has been possible before, combining satellite and radar observations with high-speed communications and computing.

The system called Frontiers - standing for Forecasting Rain Optimised using New Techniques of Interactively Enhanced Radar and Satellite - is beginning pre-operational trials

Module approaches to teaching mathematics

Module approaches to teaching mathematics

A complete rethink of what is taught in schools and how was advocated yesterday by Mr Bob Aitken, director of education in Coventry, in a speech to the education section in which he said the curriculum should be organized into modules or units rather than subjects.

Mathematics could be divided into some units concerned with the mathematics of everyday life, some units that were required for industry and commerce, and some units as a preparation for more advanced courses.

Mr Aitken said: "At 14 a student might do only the 'everyday life' units but the important feature of the system is that at any stage he could progress by adding further units." Such a system would cut across the school/further education divide and would mean that education would no longer have to be provided in an institution.

There would have to be discussion about how long a unit should be but a convenient length might be 25 hours, teaching time, organized into five school periods each week or one week's continuous work.

Mr Aitken said that the present curriculum was not constructed to meet the educational aims considered desirable today. "An advantage of the proposed modular system is that it would allow a student to achieve a much better balance without offending against the integrity of subjects."

"It would probably lead to much tighter teaching since the learning objectives of each module would need to be specified, and it would facilitate change", he added.

Mr Chris Hayes, associate fellow at the Institute of Manpower Studies in London, told the section that secondary education had betrayed and disabled young people because it only met the needs of a minority.

"In its own terms it sends nearly half of all pupils into the real world marked by failure, without confidence or the skills necessary for a successful adult life."

In addition, most of the employment given to 16-year-olds was degrading and dehumanising and stifled their self-development, he said. "Industrial training is the handmaiden of this process, training people to perform tasks which exclude initiative and independent thought."

His address was an illustration of how findings in the exciting new fast-growing subject of mathematical biology are being used to trace open doors on to paths of investigation into areas of ignorance.

So, how does the leopard get its spots?

Dr Murray's mathematical answer boils down to a

Magnetic theory of the Earth's iron core

How did the Earth obtain its iron-rich core? The traditional view that at an early stage of formation dense molten blobs of iron simply sank to the centre of the planet was challenged yesterday by Professor William McCrea, of the Astronomy Centre at Sussex University.

Professor McCrea regards the conventional wisdom about the Earth's core as too convenient an explanation without much supporting evidence.

It means believing that some very unusual conditions prevailed at one stage in the early part of the creation of the planet, whereby just the iron mineral was completed in its formation and, effectively all of it was able to sink together to the centre of the Earth.

He is dissatisfied with that theory for several reasons. It means that the Earth

has to have come from an interstellar gas cloud, consisting mostly of hydrogen and helium, but containing enough other materials to form the Earth, by collapsing into a planet-sized body.

Such a "primordial" cloud would have had a radius of one fifth of the Earth's sun distance, and, he says, that mass would have been very reluctant to collapse under its own gravity.

However, if any "large" grains were contained in such a cloud, and by that he means particles slightly bigger than 100 microns (one micron is one thousandth of a millimetre), they would then have congregated at the centre of the cloud within a short span of time of about 10,000 years.

The size of the grains is important because they would have come under the

influence of the magnetic field of the Sun, forming near by, and thereby been attracted to each other to produce a massive core, with a gravitational pull strong enough to attract the remaining grains not magnetized, to form the outer mantle of the planet.

Another established theory to come under fire concerned the origins of comets, which have been believed to have come from a belt outside the solar system.

Dr Mark Bailey, of Sussex University, suggests another idea is that there is a swarm of comets much closer to the Sun, and that they are responsible for pulling the outer planets slightly out of position.

With comets so close, there would be no need to search for the tenth planet, which has long been thought to exist, to account for the irregularities in calculation.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Social services told to show people their case records

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records, under guidance issued yesterday by the Department of Health and Social Services.

The guidance outlines decades of practice in which social workers compiled confidential files on elderly people, children, disabled people and mentally ill or handicapped people, in the expectation that their subject would never read them.

The department has been compelled to lay down rules on access to the files because a number of local councils have decided that they should be open.

A circular outlining how councils should make such files accessible asks them to set up safeguards to protect information from or about third parties.

The circular, which comes after a consultation paper issued last month, also wants safeguards to protect social workers' judgments and to consider the possibility that some people might be distressed by what they read in their files.

Elderly people, for example, might learn that they were less than welcome in their families, or children might discover that their parents had criminal records or a history of mental disorder.

Information provided by third parties, such as doctors,

teachers and the police, should not be disclosed without their permission. Records on children in care should not be made available to their parents without the child's consent, the circular says.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said yesterday that he shared the view that people receiving social services should be able to discover what was said about them. But some safeguards were essential to protect third parties, ensure effectiveness of social work and in rare cases protect the clients themselves.

Mr Peter Westland, social services secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday that the circular was flawed because of the unnecessary haste with which it had been produced.

"We are in favour of improved access by clients to their files, but there has been very little consultation on how it should be done," he said. "If there is a heavy demand from clients to see their files, there will have to be some vetting and it could cost each local authority £20,000 a year to implement."

Because existing records have been compiled on the assumption that their contents would never be disclosed, they should not be made available under the new system unless the people who drew them up consent the circular says.

Senior people in social services departments should decide when sensitive information is to be made available or withheld.

Requests from children in care for access to their files should be treated in the same way as requests from adults; mentally ill or mentally handicapped people should be treated in the same way as other people unless they are incapable of managing their own affairs, the circular says.

But in most cases it will be necessary for a social worker to be present when files are opened, and in some cases clients may need special counselling to help them understand the contents of their records.

Robbery charge boys remanded

Three boys, all aged 15, accused of robbing a girl aged 12 of 8p in cash and a silver ring were remanded in local authority care yesterday for eight days at Bournemouth Juvenile Court, south London.

They will appear before Lambeth Juvenile Court on September 2. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Shuttle expected to draw callers

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

British Telecom expects a substantial increase in telephone traffic next Tuesday when subscribers dial to over-hear communications between the newly-launched space shuttle and its control centre in Houston, Texas.

More than £100,000 was spent by British Telecom on the shuttle during the last two shuttle flights in April this year and last August. Next week's flight takes off at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday.

The shuttle, the eighth to be launched by the United States, is expected to take off at about 6.30 a.m. EST. Telephone callers wanting to dial the shuttle service can do so from two hours before the take-off.

In the past there has only been voice communication between the space craft and earth for about 20 per cent of each orbit but that is expected to be improved by a new communication satellite launched last June. A sister satellite, to be launched next spring, will give continuous voice communication.

Next week's mission is due to last until September 5. Bad weather will delay the launch.

The crew members are Richard Truly, the commander; Dan Brandenstein, the co-pilot; and three mission specialists: Dale Gardner, Bill Thornton and Ellison S. Sizemore.

Shuttle number: 910-1-307-410-6272.

Finance firm chief jailed for fraud

A finance company chairman, Robert Millage, lived in a "make-believe world of self-delusion" when he offered firms cash loans at low interest rates, the Central Criminal Court in London was told yesterday.

After only five months trading his company collapsed with debts of £124,000 without completing a single transaction, and he had traded while an undischarged bankrupt, the court heard.

Mr Millage, aged 42, of Abbey Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Hereford and Worcestershire, was jailed for three years for fraudulent trading, obtaining £40,500 in loans from a bank and building society, and making false statements in 1966. He was banned from managing a company for five years.

Mr Millage, who pleaded not guilty, claimed he had "lost his memory" after being stabbed by his wife in 1963, the year he was declared bankrupt. He said that as a result of selective amnesia he could not remember the proceedings of being made bankrupt.

Mr Timothy Nash, for the prosecution, said Mr Millage started the firm of Hodson Lynch at South Street, Dorking, Surrey, with a "good idea to make money" through American interest rates.

His expenses rose to £80,000, he took his wife on trips to the United States and Hong Kong, and bought a £41,000 house at Puddinghoe Copse in Betchworth.

The firm obtained a £70,000 investment from the Anglo-Soviet Shipping Company, which lost most of the money when his company went into liquidation. He later opened a similar business, called Morgan Kingsley.

Mr Ian Davidson, QC, for the defence, said Mr Millage had honestly believed his companies were going to be successful. But finally he "refused to face the harsh reality of failure".

Judge Sutcliffe, QC, told Mr Millage: "You are not God's gift to commerce. You were prepared to lie your way out at any length, but you are not going to win by deceiving honest people."



Kidney patients 'should threaten legal action'

Kidney patients who are refused dialysis treatment because their health authority has insufficient funds should threaten legal action, says Dr Roger Gabriel, a London-based kidney unit expert.

He makes his suggestion in the latest issue of the family doctors' magazine, *Current Practice*, saying why 75 per cent of the 3,000 Britons who suffer end-stage renal failure every year are refused treatment and what patients can do about it.

He writes: "There is one final plea that could be tried if a renal unit were willing to dialyse a specific patient but did not have the funds."

"The patient would be informed of the situation. His or her spouse would threaten the district or regional health authority (through the local authority) via his solicitor that legal action would be instituted if he died of untreated renal failure. I expect a health authority would rapidly find money in such circumstances."

Yesterday Dr Gabriel, a renal physician at St Mary's and St Charles' Hospitals, said he knew of one successful case last year in the Birmingham area.

New picture of missing wife

The police have released a new photograph (above) of Mrs Diane Jones, the missing wife of Dr Robert Jones, village doctor at Coggeshall, Essex.

They believe it shows Mrs Jones, aged 35, as she looked on the night she vanished a month ago. Taken recently by a friend, it shows her with her hair dyed and bobbed in a page-boy style.

Butter makers hit back with soft spread

A new soft butter which can be spread straight from the fridge is to be launched by the Milk Marketing Board.

The development is the latest round in the fight between margarine and butter producers. The margarine companies currently sell about 100,000 tons more in Britain each year than the butter producers.

The new product is designed to overcome complaints that butter is difficult to use straight from the fridge. It will be launched by Dairy Crest, the MMB's commercial arm, but the board would not disclose details of the launch yesterday.

It is understood that the product will not be labelled butter because of the process used to keep it soft. But it will be a full fat spread close in character to ordinary butter.

Youth remanded on Peak murder charge

A youth was remanded in custody for six days yesterday accused of murdering Susan Renhard, aged 21, in the Derbyshire Peak District.

A crowd of more than 150 jeered and abused the 17-year-old, a student, into High Peak magistrates' court at Buxton, Derbyshire. His head was covered by a grey blanket.

The hearing lasted 90 minutes. Mr Smith's solicitor, Mr Timothy Oddy, made no application for bail.

Mr Smith, of Buxton Road, Castleton, Derbyshire, was driven away in a police car. Miss Renhard, from West Hagley, near Stourbridge, West Midlands, was a student at Manchester Polytechnic. She was found dead at Cave Dale, near Castleton, in June.

Falkland's terms for Argentine trade

By John Witherow

Falkland Islanders would be prepared to accept renewed air and trade links with Argentina provided there was no challenge to British sovereignty, two of the islands' elected councillors said yesterday.

Mr John Cheek and Mr Anthony Blake, who were in London on their way to a United Nations debate in New York on the Falklands, said there would be some opposition but most people accepted normalisation of relations was inevitable once a formal end to hostilities had been agreed.

"We are going to have to accept one or two things we are not very keen on," Mr Blake said. Before last year's conflict he and other farmers exported mutton to the mainland. In return Argentina supplied fuel and timber, which now has to be brought in via Ascension Island.

An advantage such renewed links would be that Argentina would no longer have a monopoly of air links after building of an airfield 35 miles from Port Stanley.

Mr Cheek painted a grim picture of working conditions for the 1,500 men likely to be involved in the airfield project, likening it to the isolation of construction work in the Sahara desert.

No road links the airfield site to Port Stanley and in winter it could take a day by Land-Rover to reach the capital. As a result, Mr Cheek thought most of the workers would remain at the site, pursuing such leisure activities as fishing and bird-watching.

The two men said water and electricity supplies were still under strain in Port Stanley. A number of people wanting to emigrate to the islands had been turned away because of a shortage of housing.

Concern over an Argentine attack had declined and the most people anticipated were pinprick raids or a clash between RAF Phantoms and Argentine aircraft straying into the 150-mile air zone.

The garrison of several thousand troops had caused few difficulties for the 1,800 islanders.

Injured Briton held in Saudi jail 'will be ill permanently'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Keith Carmichael, the British businessman held in Saudi Arabia without trial since 1981, is expected to suffer for the rest of his life from the effect of injuries received while in custody.

His medical report, released to *The Times* yesterday by the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad, says: "We think this patient has a severe malformation of the spine which will, in his future life, restrict his activities quite drastically."

The report, signed by Dr E. F. Bettendorff, a specialist in traumatology at the Security Forces Hospital of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of the Interior, says that Mr Carmichael should be given painkillers and have permission to do physical exercises in prison to strengthen muscles to prevent further persistent damage.

The report of the examination, which was carried out at the request of the British Embassy, says that in the middle of August 1982, Mr Carmichael suffered swelling, especially in the left knee and ankle. Mr Carmichael alleges that he was beaten on the soles of his feet and mistreated by prison guards.

The report says that, as he was on his way to Shumaisy Hospital for treatment, the car in which he was travelling went over bumps in the road at very high speed. "The patient has sudden terrible pain in his back and X-rays showed a compression fracture for which he was treated in Shumaisy Hospital for five weeks. After removal of the plaster he was returned to prison."

When examined at the request of the British Embassy he had severe pains in the back, especially when sitting. "Examination now shows general atrophy of all muscles."

Mr Carmichael wrote to *The Times* saying he was on hunger strike, which he has since ended, to draw attention to his plight. His contracting company, Saeem International, collapsed with debts alleged by the Saudi authorities to total almost £1m. Saudi companies are among those said to be owed money, which is sufficient reason under Saudi law for his detention unless creditors waive their claims.

Our Medical Correspondent says of the hospital report, which gives details of Mr Carmichael's injury, that the vertebrae had become compressed and the nerve leaving the spinal chord trapped. Sensory nerves leading to the thighs were affected by damage inflicted on the backbone.

The weight-bearing portion of the backbone had been compressed by 40 per cent of its normal height, which would reduce Mr Carmichael's height by about one-eighth of an inch.

He would be likely to develop secondary osteo-arthritis symptoms, similar to those of a slipped disc, and would also have chronic low-grade backache, with intermittent attacks of pain leading to his thighs. Wasting of the muscles in the front of his thighs would also be likely.



Emma Pashley and her brother Simon; both have heart conditions.

Operation for girl who asked for new heart

Emma Pashley, the girl aged eight who wrote to Father Christmas last year asking for a new heart, is to undergo a pioneering operation in the new year to correct her heart condition.

The girl, from Stockport, Greater Manchester, was given only an hour to live when she was born with her heart on the wrong side of her body and with the arteries transposed. The day-long operation will take place at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital.

Her mother, Mrs Susan Pashley, said yesterday: "We have got to give her the chance of life. The surgeons say that if she does not have the operation she will be in a wheelchair within 18 months and after that the outcome will be very bleak. We are told there is just over a 50 per cent chance of the operation being a success, and we don't really have a choice. Emma has deteriorated quite a lot in the last 12 months."

Mrs Pashley and her husband, a motor mechanic, hope the operation will be carried out next January or February. "The surgeons say Emma's condition is so complex they have not come across it before and the operation is unique because although the techniques are not new they have not been used to such an extent on someone so young", Mrs Pashley said.

The girl has already had two operations. She wrote to Santa Claus with her brother Simon, aged 11, who has an unrelated heart condition and has since been fitted with a pacemaker.

Muggeridge rebuffs abortion campaign

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Irish Republic's Society for the Protection of Unborn Child, has suffered a setback with the cancellation of a tour by Mr Malcolm Muggeridge in support of an anti-abortion amendment he describes as "absolutely absurd".

The broadcaster and opponent of abortion has been inundated at his home in East Sussex by telephone calls from priests, including Roman Catholic priests, in the republic trying to make him change his mind and retract his opposition to the amendment. He said yesterday: "I have not had one telephone conversation with people who have a grasp of the whole thing. If they are doing something like this, at least they could maintain a certain mental clarity on the issue."

Mr Muggeridge, aged 80 and a Roman Catholic, had been invited to take part in a whistle-stop tour by helicopter addressing rallies in favour of the constitutional amendment.

He said yesterday that when he saw the wording of the proposed amendment he decided he could not stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with people" and recommend the public to vote "yes" as he believed it was so riddled with qualifications that it would lead to the introduction of abortion in the republic.

"I cannot see how, if you are anti-abortion, you could vote for it. The amendment as worded will open the way to legalized abortion rather than prevent it," he said.

Mr Muggeridge said the republic had a law forbidding abortion and that the wording of the amendment contained ridiculous phrases which qualified everything. It was "a farce" which he could not defend because of the "absurd equivocations".

On September 7 the republic will vote on the eighth amendment to the Constitution which reads: "The state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its law to respect and, as far as practicable, by its laws to vindicate that right."

Mr Muggeridge's refusal to support the amendment further confuses an already deeply divided nation.

Doctors' and lawyers' organizations, the Irish Farmers Association, political parties and families, have been split. As polling day approaches, the campaign is plunging to new depths of bitterness.

The republic's Minister for Finance, Mr Alan Dukes, was accused of "consorting with murderers" when he became the first senior minister to speak against the proposal, saying he could not "in conscience" support the amendment.

Police count cost of hippy trail

A two-week operation by Norfolk police to control a "peace" police convoy of hippies travelling to their annual camp in Norwich was yesterday estimated unofficially to have cost £300,000.

The police made 65 arrests, 52 of them for alleged drug offences, and evicted the hippies from land owned by the University of East Anglia. The campers had rejected an offer of an "official" site near a rubbish tip.

A year ago damage was caused in nine counties as a "peace" people's convoy of coaches, lorries and caravans made its way from Bristol to Norwich.

At that time the Norfolk police made few arrests and policing costs totalled £5,000.

The cost of the operation this year is expected to be higher than the bill for policing Norwich City football matches for a whole season.

Rapist who fled bail is jailed

An American air force warehouse manager was jailed for three and a half years yesterday after a jury at the Central Criminal Court found him guilty of raping a German translator, aged 22, in Chelsea, west London in November 1978.

Andre Ataoudia, aged 27, who is based in Karlsruhe, West Germany, absconded from bail in September, 1979, and was brought back to Britain in May after extradition proceedings were instituted in West Germany. He was sentenced to a further six months to run consecutively, for absconding making a total of four years.

Mini is 24

The Mini, Britain's most famous small car, celebrates its twenty-fourth birthday today. Almost five million of the cars have been produced since the Mini-Minor was launched in 1959 and BL plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, still turns out more than 1,000 a week.

Bears shot

Two bears were shot dead by police marksmen yesterday after they escaped into the grounds at the zoological gardens in Hotham Park, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Three face betting coup trial

From our Correspondent

Three men were committed for trial to York Crown Court at Hull yesterday on a conspiracy charge arising out of an alleged betting coup involving switching racehorses at Leicester in March last year.

The accused, whose bail was renewed, were Mr Kenneth Richardson, aged 45, a company executive of Jubilee House, Hutton, near Humber-side Driffield, Mr Colin Mathison, aged 44, a company director of Wild View North, and Mr Peter Dobbs, aged 37, a horse-box driver of Hazel Close, both in Driffield.

They were jointly charged with dishonestly conspiring together and with others to cheat and defraud people willing to bet or to take bets, on the Knighton Autumn Stakes, a race for two-year-olds, on March 29 last year at Leicester, and on other races by falsely representing that a horse entered under the name of Flockton Grey, which won the Leicester Race at 20-1, whereas the horse entered in the race and intended for other races was a three-year-old named Good Hand or some other name.

Mr Leslie Bell, for the prosecution, withdrew all other charges made against the accused at previous court appearances. He also asked a High Court judge try the case at the Crown Court.

Club destroyed

The Regnum Club in Chichester, West Sussex, a listed eighteenth century building, was destroyed by fire early yesterday morning.

Remand prisoner 'fears for treatment'

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

A solicitor told magistrates in Birkenhead, Merseyside, yesterday that he was unwilling to have his client committed for trial because the man feared his requests for medical treatment would be forgotten if he did not have to make regular court appearances to be remanded.

Mr Paul Malone, aged 38, hurt his face badly when he fell against a radiator on August 3 while in custody at Risley Remand Centre. Since then, his solicitor, Mr Robert Broudie, has made repeated requests that he be given proper medical treatment.

Doctors brought in by Mr Malone's family have examined him at Risley and said that unless he receives urgent treatment for a fracture he could be permanently disfigured.

Last week magistrates said they were not satisfied with a statement from Risley saying that adequate treatment had already been given. They agreed to write to the Home Office demanding a further investigation. Yesterday the clerk to the court told them no reply had been received.

Yesterday Mr Broudie asked the court to have one of the remand centre's senior officials or doctors brought before it to explain the situation. This request was refused and Mr Malone was remanded in custody for a further seven days until his commitment on September 1.

Mr Malone, of no fixed address, stood in the dock with a swollen left cheek and a black eye. Medical reports have said he has a broken nose and a bruised jaw and his left cheek is fractured in four places. He has been in custody for nine months facing 23 charges including burglary, obtaining money by deception and impersonating a police officer.

13 injured in coach crash

Thirteen people were injured yesterday when a National Express coach collided with a 30-ton lorry, at Cleve, near Bristol.

Four of the injured were detained in hospital, the rest were allowed home after treatment, police said.

The coach, which had been travelling from Paignton in Devon, to York, had most of its offside ripped out. It was carrying 47 passengers, mostly holidaymakers.

The crash is the seventh serious accident involving coaches in Britain since May. Because of public concern the Department of Transport is considering possible changes in the speed limits of coaches. Coach speeds on motorways are currently being monitored and Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, will be given the results next month.

Mr Alan Thomas, of Andover, Liverpool, who was injured in the crash, said he was travelling to York for a holiday. He was travelling in the front of the coach when it was hit. He was carrying 47 passengers, mostly holidaymakers.

The crash is the seventh serious accident involving coaches in Britain since May. Because of public concern the Department of Transport is considering possible changes in the speed limits of coaches. Coach speeds on motorways are currently being monitored and Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, will be given the results next month.

Miner dies

Mr Paul Lym, aged 18, a miner, of Limby, Nottinghamshire, died yesterday, a day after suffering internal injuries when he was crushed in an underground conveyor belt at Babbington Colliery, Nottingham.

East and West getting together

Angry delegates stage sit-in over Malta at Madrid conference

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain announced yesterday that it is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to come for a major East-West gathering here early next month, regardless of Malta still pursuing obstructionist tactics.

Señor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, is anxious for Madrid to be the scene between September 7 and 11 of an encounter between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Minister.

The foreign ministers' gathering, diplomats explained, would be held technically outside the security conference framework with invitations issued by Spain through the normal diplomatic channels.

Malta has obliged the 34 Western Communist and neutral countries to adopt this consensus on a 35-page final document dealing with East-West relations which everyone else accepted on July 15.

A formal concluding session of the almost three-year long Madrid meeting would have to be held later.

The disruptive tactics of the Maltese Government reached their nadir yesterday, visibly angering the heads of all the other delegations.

The delegates, who had flown in from their capitals hoping Malta would finally relent, found themselves confronted by a Maltese junior diplomat who simply told them he had no instructions.

When Mr Mario Buttingliog appealed for an adjournment until later in the day when he said Mr Evaristo Saliba, Malta's chief delegate, was due to reach Madrid, all the delegates refused him point blank and began a kind of sit-in.

"We are not accepting that our procedures at this conference should be dictated by Malta," Sir Anthony Williams, the chief British delegate said later. Like other envoys, he left a deputy closeted in silence with the Maltese junior diplomat in a conference room of a big Madrid hotel.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief United States delegate, left swiftly, indicating through aides an intention to go back to Washington.

"We are sitting it out, taking turns to go to the men's room or to the ladies," was how Dr

Joerg Kasl, of West Germany, described the delegates' tactics.

Two of the largest available *ensaimadas*, the typical wheel-shaped sweet cakes from Majorca, were taken in for snacks to underline their will to sit it out. Several emerged to express barely diplomatic views over Malta's wisdom in alienating any remaining disposition to negotiate a compromise over its demands.

These are that the Mediterranean region's security problems should be treated on the same level as those of Europe by the 35 nations, but no other delegation really wants to overload the already difficult East-West relationship with the problems of the Middle East.

Well past lunch hour, and with their anger subsiding, the delegates decided to relent and to adjourn and await the chief Maltese delegate.

But when Mr Saliba appeared it was only to reject a proposal by Switzerland to hold the next meeting on the day before the foreign ministers are due to arrive, and to demand reconsideration of Malta's wants.

Delegates were still in conference after hours of discussions last night.

US signs Moscow grain deal

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr John Block, the American Agriculture Secretary, yesterday met Mr Geidar Aliyev, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, in what is seen as a further move towards easing Soviet-American relations.

Mr Block described the talks as "constructive, useful and friendly", although some diplomats were sceptical, pointing out that the Kremlin and the White House remained at daggers drawn. Mr Block agreed there was "more work to be done".

Earlier, Mr Block had signed a new grain agreement providing for an increase in American grain supplies over the next five years. He described this as a very important occasion. Mr Nikolai Patolichev, the Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, who signed on behalf of Russia, nodded and said "yes".

It was not the most earth shattering exchange between politicians of East and West but it did mark a slight thaw in the distinctly chilly relations between Moscow and the Reagan Administration. Mr Block is the most senior administration official to visit here since the funeral of President Brezhnev last November.

The meeting with Mr Aliyev, who is a full Politburo member, is seen as a sign that both sides are using the visit to explore a political rapprochement, perhaps eventually leading to an Andropov-Reagan summit. The meeting was squeezed into what amounted to a one and a half day visit.

Mr Block leaves Moscow this morning. He said on arrival on Wednesday that the new grain agreement not only marked a return to more normal trading relations but also showed that Russia and America could work

together on "issues of mutual significance".

At a press conference Mr Block said the agreement - valued at \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year - had put an "emphatic end to a very difficult chapter in our grain trading relations". Under the agreement the Russians will buy a minimum of nine million tonnes.

The American share of Soviet grain imports, which slumped to 20 per cent after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the ensuing grain embargo, is now expected to rise to 40 per cent.

Diplomats said, however, that it would not approach the 76 per cent share enjoyed by Washington before 1979, and added that Afghanistan remained one of several stumbling blocks.

Mr Block's visit has received

no publicity in the Soviet media, while a fierce anti-American propaganda campaign has continued unabated. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* yesterday attacked a range of American policies, describing Washington's stand on arms control as "double face".

Tass, taking a less enthusiastic line than Mr Block, described his meeting with Mr Aliyev as "businesslike".

The agency described the deal as an "agreement on trade in some agricultural commodities", avoiding all reference to Russian grain imports. It said Mr Block and Mr Aliyev expressed the hope that the agreement would "contribute to the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation" and did not suggest it had wider political significance.



Moscow mirth: Mr Block, left, and Mr Patolichev after the signing of the grain agreement.

East Germans given missile message

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democratic disarmament expert, yesterday held talks in East Berlin with Herr Oskar Fischer, the East German Foreign Minister, continuing the top level discussions he has been having there about the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Germany.

On Wednesday Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, gave him an unusually blunt warning that if West Germany went ahead with deployment, the Soviet Union would be "forced to station more medium-range missiles."

He also said that it would be

necessary to deploy effective kinds of operative-tactical missiles with a longer range in forward positions in Warsaw Pact countries.

His warning was prominently displayed in East German newspapers yesterday. He also told Herr Bahr that the missiles the Russians would put in East Germany would reach their targets more quickly than the Pershings aimed at Moscow. But he added that an arms agreement in Geneva was still possible.

The Christian-Social Union, whose leader Herr Franz Josef Strauss met Herr Honecker on a

controversial visit last month, criticized the East German leader's remarks as being of "little help". He said that the threatened deployment in the East raised the question whether the Soviet side was seriously interested in disarmament.

During his visit, Herr Bahr also discussed the DM1,000m (£250m) West German credit to East Berlin. The two countries' close economic links were further underlined earlier this week by West German trade figures for the first half of 1983, which showed that trade with East Germany rose by 16 per cent over last year.

Insults fly as Cameroon chiefs wrangle

Paris (AFP) - The former Cameroonian President Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo renewed his attack on the protégé he put in power 10 months ago, President Paul Biya, calling him a "weakling", a "swindler" and a "hypocrite".

Speaking from his residence in the south of France, he said that he had refused a recent demand by Mr Biya that he should resign as head of the ruling Cameroon National Union which he retained when he stepped down after 22 years as President late last year.

Mr Biya announced earlier this week that he had smashed a plot to overthrow him.

Mr Ahidjo denied accusations by Cameroonian exiles in France that he had stolen \$2,500m (£1,600m) of state funds during his time in power and that he was planning to use it to recapture power.

Bonn alarm at 'Times' view on Rhine army

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

The debate on the Rhine Army started by *The Times* is being followed closely in Bonn by politicians and military leaders who have expressed alarm at the idea of Britain's handing over responsibility for the defence of West Germany's eastern frontier to a German unit.

The conservative newspaper, *Die Welt*, echoing the views of senior officials in Chancellor Kohl's Government, said that the leading article published in *The Times* on August 17 could have "fatal consequences" if the British Government were to follow up such proposals.

The Times believed that would want to follow Britain's lead in leaving the defence of forward positions in Germany to the Bundeswehr. The relevant authorities in Bonn are said to know very well that government circles in Brussels

and The Hague were just waiting for moves in this direction which they could follow. Such a development would be viewed with alarm here.

Die Welt said that the suggestions for a reduced Rhine Army ran into considerable scepticism here. What *The Times* considered as tactical rigidity was, for German politicians and military, the kernel of Nato's aims - ensuring that without widespread operations on the territory of the Warsaw Pact countries, possible attack from the East were stopped as close as possible to the inner-German frontier. This was possible with the forces as they now existed.

The Germans have also been hurt by suggestions that they play the role of only a junior partner in Nato.



Two die in Berlin consulate blast

All that remained of the *Maison de France* on West Berlin's fashionable Kurfürstendamm yesterday after an explosion that killed two people and injured 23. The building housed the French Consulate as well as a cinema which was empty at the time.

An anonymous telephone caller to

Agence France-Presse said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (Asala) was responsible.

West Berlin police said the two men who died and 17 of those hurt were Germans. Two French citizens were among the injured.

The blast was the first reported

instance of Asala terrorist activity in West Germany. The group had given a warning that it would strike at French interests if France did not release the Armenians arrested after a bomb attack at Orly airport in Paris last month that killed eight people and injured 55.

The Namibia equation

From Richard Dowden, Luanda

the head of military intelligence in the region, said on Wednesday that the attack on Cangamba had been made to coincide with Señor de Cuellar's visit "so that the South Africans can present Unia as part of the Namibia equation".

The South Africans are demanding the withdrawal of

Angola pessimistic on UN mission

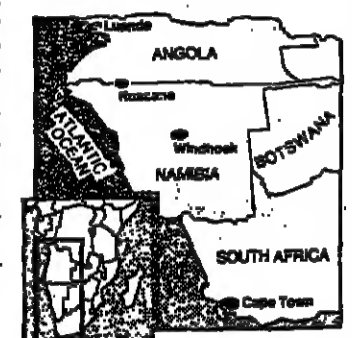
No one in the Angolan capital has a drop of optimism to sweeten the arrival of Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, who flies in from South Africa today.

Officially he is to discuss the implementation of Resolution No 435 of the United Nations which aims to bring South-West Africa (Namibia) to independence. However, the Angolans and the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), which has been fighting the South Africans for 17 years, perceive the details of the UN plan as purely academic.

As they see it, there has been no decision by the South African Government to withdraw from Namibia. Furthermore, any of the details of the UN plan could be made into big issues by South Africa in an attempt to gain more time.

The Angolans point to the build-up of South African forces in northern Namibia and southern Angola and are expecting air attacks by the South Africans as soon as Señor de Cuellar leaves tomorrow. They also recall the battle of Cangamba last week, in which South African forces apparently intervened in support of an attack on the town, by Unia, the South African backed insurgents, forcing the Angolan Government forces to withdraw.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ngongo,



Cuban troops from Angola - said to number about 20,000 - as part of an agreement with Namibian independence, but the Angolan Government appears to be standing firm on this.

He spent the rest of the day session acquainted with the complex internal political situation of a country with barely one million people but several dozen political parties.

Mr Andreas Shipanga, former

senior political official in the Swapo hierarchy and now leader of the rival Swapo-Democrats based in Windhoek, was the first to meet Señor Cuellar.

Swiss turn palace in fortress

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Some of the more cautious international civil servants among the 2,500 at the UN Palais des Nations complex have thought it advisable to buy individual "all events" insurance cover for the duration of the international conference on Palestine being held there from Monday until September 7. Others are conveniently going on holiday.

Those remaining at their desks in the 14-storey conference building have protested at some emergency staircases being blocked for security reasons.

Apprehension has become apparent at the spectacle of the UN complex, which has a perimeter of about two and a half miles, being converted by the Swiss Army into a fortress surrounded by barbed wire and barriers, adjoining roads being closed or restricted and nearby schools closed until the second week of September.

A no-go area between the barriers is surveyed by soldiers in camouflage uniforms, with orders to shoot at any intruder disregarding a single command to halt. The two UN buildings are guarded by an augmented force of UN security men, both uniformed and plain clothes all linked by radio.

The other main focus of security is the airport. About a dozen crossing points along the French frontier are closed, with the military patrolling all along its length.

Security precautions are officially described as the most extensive Geneva has ever seen, with 2,000 soldiers from two tank battalions, an artillery company, plus 600 police, half of them detached from other cantons - leaving as many Geneva police again for normal duties.

Salvador military shoot Italian at roadblock

San Salvador (Reuters) - Salvadorean soldiers shot and killed an Italian engineer when he apparently tried to break through an army road block.

Military officials and spokesman CEL, the state-owned electricity company, said Señor Vitorino Andreito, aged 33, was killed and another person injured at the road block on the Quebrada Seca bridge, 50 miles east of the capital.

Colonel Francisco Antonio Moran, CEL's president, said that Señor Andreito, who worked for a company called Cogefar with a dozen Swiss and Italian engineers on a hydroelectric plant in San Vicente province, had left the dam site around midnight on Tuesday.

Soldiers opened fire when Señor Andreito refused to heed their instructions to halt, Colonel Moran said, adding that Cogefar, contracted by the El Salvador Government to build the plant did not blame the soldiers. An Italian embassy spokesman refused to comment.

The dam is financed by the World Bank and will open next month.

Meanwhile El Salvador's Roman Catholic bishops have accused the country's legislators of passing a new constitution without proper evaluation of its provisions and at a time of "no real freedom" for conscientious action.

The charge came in a statement by the episcopal conference that said the Constituent Assembly was following party lines in passing the draft constitution.

GUATEMALA: President Mejia Victores of Guatemala said in his first news conference since taking power two weeks ago that he would retain a new tax imposed by his predecessor (Reuters reports).

The move surprised some diplomats, who had regarded the new tax-added tax as one of the main reasons for the coup.

Seven killed in Kenya plane crash

Nairobi (AP) Seven people - four West Germans, two Italians and a Dutch national - were killed when their small aircraft crashed in the Ingilo Hills near the Tanzanian border, about 85 miles south of here.

The accident occurred on Monday but only fragmented reports had been received until yesterday. There were no survivors.

The Italians were identified as Signor Maurizio Mauro, aged 50, the pilot and owner, and his 15-year-old son, Riccardo. The four West Germans were stewardesses of the charter airline, Condor, a subsidiary of Lufthansa. The Dutch national was the husband of one of the stewardesses.

Rain caused school tragedy

Taipei (Reuters) - A provisional education commissioner has offered to resign after 27 girls were killed and 84 injured when a school ceiling collapsed at Feng Yuan near here.

An inquiry has been ordered into the accident, apparently caused by water accumulation on the roof after days of heavy rain.

Baby expelled

Rome (AFP) - Italy has expelled a two-month-old Venezuelan girl who spent seven days in a Rome airport transit lounge after a legal tangle over her adoption. She was put on board a flight for Caracas, accompanied by a childless Sicilian couple who had brought her to Rome last week.

Bride's suicide

Delhi (AFP) - A teenage bride burnt herself to death, saying that her in-laws had refused her food as part of pressure tactics to force her husband to increase her dowry. It was the latest in a long series of "dowry deaths".

Hijack appeal

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korean prosecutors are appealing for heavier sentences on six Chinese given six years for hijacking a Chinese airliner to Seoul in May. China has said the sentences are too lenient.

Colombo visitor

Colombo - Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, the Indian special envoy, arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday for discussions with President Jayewardene after the recent attacks on Tamils.

Burma riot

Rangoon (AP) - Muslims' houses, shops and mosques were destroyed in Yandooon, 50 miles east of the Burmese capital, after a quarrel between a Muslim medicine vendor and his Buddhist customers.

Hit reprieved

Pretoria (AFP) - A ten-year ban on the film and soundtrack of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, has been lifted by the South African censors.

Train deaths

Bangkok (AFP) - Eight people were killed and nine seriously injured in a train crash near Chumphon, 275 miles south of here.

Factory blast

Rome (AFP) - An explosion destroyed a fireworks factory in Borgorose, 60 miles north of here, killing five people. A sixth person was reported missing.

China in space

Peking (Reuters) - An experimental Chinese satellite has returned to Earth after a successful five-day mission.

Leg appeal

Peking (Reuters) - A Chinese hosiery factory is marketing scented stockings. "In addition to being transparent, soft and elastic, they have a fragrance which will last through at least 10 washings," according to the *Peking Daily*.

Israel cements trade and aid ties with Liberia

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The state visit to Israel by General Samuel Doe, the Liberian leader, ends today after expressions of satisfaction on both sides over the signing of an agreement which would involve the rapid dispatch of Israeli experts to Monrovia.

According to the pact, the Israeli assistance in the first instance will be limited to agriculture, shipping, road building and the reorganization of Liberia's national airline. Details of military aid and intelligence cooperation have not been made public.

In diplomatic circles, it is considered that Israel has done as much as possible in its present dire economic circum-

stances to repay General Doe for becoming the first African head of state to visit Jerusalem since 26 African countries broke ties in 1973.

Officials here are optimistic that the aid package and the cordiality extended to the large Liberian party will encourage other African states to renew relations. Talks about a resumption of ties with the Central African Republic took place recently.

General Doe - who cancelled a press conference yesterday because of "fatigue" - has been reassured by confirming that Liberia will become the third country to site its embassy in Jerusalem rather than Tel Aviv.

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES. THE NEW 26TH ISSUE.

SPECTRUM

20 years after Martin Luther King's stirring speech, American blacks are still fighting for equality. Reaganomics means hard times for many and the black protest is growing, writes Trevor Fishlock

Dreaming that dream

New York

The words echoed over Washington, and America beyond, sounding the end of one age and the beginning of another.

"I have a dream..." It was August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King stood under the Lincoln Memorial and cried out in impassioned oratory to the quarter of a million people who had gathered on the capital.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character." Two weeks later whites bombed a black church in Alabama and killed four little children. There was to be more bloodshed and cruelty as Americans bent themselves to the unfinished business of the Civil War.

There followed the frenzied last stand of white supremacists, black fury and burning cities, and the murder of Martin Luther King himself five years after the declaration of his dream.

And in time the moderate civil rights movement, in which blacks linked hands with whites to sing "We Shall Overcome", began to wither as disillusioned blacks concluded it was better to put an angry chin than offer a conciliatory cheek.

Dr King's oration at the Lincoln Memorial marked the peak of a movement acceptable to liberals for its nobility of purpose. But it also foretold that "whirlwinds of revolt" would go on shaking the United States - and they did. So while the speech was inspiring, it was also a sombre warning.

White liberals in the civil rights crusade found, like negroes, that slaying diabolical southern dragons was not enough, that there were no easy solutions. They were perplexed and frightened by the bitterness of black revolt.

And blacks exposed the painful truth that racism was not just southern: it was American. Prejudice and hypocrisy flourished in the North, too.

The black grievance slid from stage centre as Vietnam dominated national consciousness in the 1970s. Today it is returning to prominence. Blacks know that much of Martin Luther King's dream remains a long way from realization, and they are growing restless for a fuller economic share.

The campaign of the 1960s wrought profound changes. The civil rights and voting rights acts were notable advances, bought with blood and suffering. The South today is astonished by what has been accomplished in the 20 years since Dr King said he dreamed that the children of slaves and slave owners would sit together.

But blacks see that far from being the end of the struggle the 1960s movement was an episode. It brought the deep South, at last, into the late twentieth century and properly into the United States, but its achievements were deceptive.

Blacks note with dismay that they are still far behind, hobbled by intractable difficulties, inequalities and discrimination. In a study two years ago, black academics decided "it is difficult to be optimistic about the future of blacks in American society".

The depth of frustration was illustrated recently by Leanta McClain, a journalist on the *Chicago Tribune*, in a raging article that seemed empty of hope, under the headline "How Chicago Taught Me to Hate Whites". She described as a race war the election this summer in which Harold Washington became the city's first black mayor.

The article said: "(On the radio it was) the blacks this, the blacks that, the blacks, the blacks... the words held out like a foul-smelling sock transported at the end of an arm."

"So many whites had never considered that blacks could do much. My white colleagues realized, perhaps for the first time, that I was one of 'them'. I was suddenly threatening. I have been unprepared for the silence with which colleagues greeted Washington's nomination."

"Solving racial problems will take more than living and going to school together and all those laudable and naive goals I defend. This affair has robbed me of my innate black hope of true integration. No white will be trusted again by the innermost me."

Bishop H. N. Brookins, a leading Los Angeles churchman, said to me: "After all these years white Americans do not really know us, do not know how diverse we are. I feel frustrated that we have not come far enough, have not been able to make white Americans understand our desire to be part of the whole."

"There is still resistance to black progress. White conservatives play on fears that black advance is at white expense. Racial division is the number one problem. The job market is still segregated and the black man finds himself running to remain in the same place."

Many of America's 27 million blacks are economically mired, lacking bootstraps to pull on. Twenty years ago blacks earned, on average, 55 per cent as much as whites. They still do. But a better measure of economic standing is wealth, and average black wealth is only 36 per cent that of white. More blacks are below the poverty line than at the end of the 1960s.

Unemployment is twice as high among blacks as among whites. Only 55 per cent of black men are working, compared with 74 per cent 20 years ago. Blacks feel bitter because they have suffered severely under President Reagan's economic regime. There is a welfare safety net, but the poor have been hurt by cuts in government spending, and for many blacks Reaganomics spells discrimination and hard times.

Life is harder for blacks. They have a shorter lifespan than whites, higher rates of infant mortality, divorce, separation and mental illness. Almost half of black 17-year-olds are illiterate. Bigotry and fear help to push the scales in their disfavour. Unions still make it difficult for them to get some jobs. There are few blacks in boardrooms and managers' chairs. Blacks are prominent in many sports, but few get into management.

The United States Commission on Civil Rights recently criticized the Reagan Administration for failing to set a good anti-discrimination example, citing a decline in the appointment of blacks and women.

"The resistance to social equity is fierce", a recent study by the Joint Centre for Political Studies, a black think tank, said. "There is a continuing climate of racism."

Among all the difficulties blacks encounter - unemployment, ghetto life, illiteracy, the results of industrial decline, the failure of billions of dollars to pull them from the bottom - perhaps the most disturbing is the corrosion of black family life.

This is a sensitive subject blacks have, until recently, preferred to keep to themselves. Until the mid-1960s three-quarters of black families were headed by two parents. Today half the families are fatherless. While the



"I have a dream": Martin Luther King (top) at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, and below, three of the men continuing the fight, from left Washington, Johnson and Jackson

overall black birthrate has fallen, the birthrate among single women has tripled in 20 years. Black leaders talk of an epidemic of births outside wedlock and are concerned at the decline in family and community responsibility, the damage to a traditionally family-oriented people.

Blacks see their tormented history and economic and social circumstances as contributors to this rot. They think the government should help with programmes to rebuild family life, but do not believe it is primarily a government problem. Rather, they think the black community and institutions must do more.

Harold Washington, Chicago's mayor, says: "We were slow to move from the protest movement into politics, lulled into thinking that passing a few laws was enough." Law, however, does change minds by creating a framework of behaviour, and the laws of the 1960s helped make America, and especially the 11 southern states where 53 per cent of blacks live, more racially tolerant, with tensions easing along with the dismantling of apartheid.

"Yes, we've come a long way", Leroy Johnson said. He was Georgia's first black state senator 20 years ago. Drinking fountains, lavatories and cafés were segregated in the state assembly, and in his first session, only four of 52 senators spoke to him.

"All that's finished. The old open prejudice has gone, but it has moved into boardrooms and is more subtle." The struggle of the 1960s led to fuller black participation in politics. Twelve years ago there were fewer than 2,000 black elected officials in America. Now there are more than 5,000.

In the mayor's office in Atlanta, premier city of the South, Andrew Young, former American Ambassador to the UN and once an aide to Martin Luther King, said it was important to remember how things were.

"When I was a student, on my way home from college, I was afraid to stop in this city. Now I'm its second black mayor."

"Much of Martin's dream has been achieved, the social inequalities he fought have gone. We don't have to march against brutal sheriffs any more. The police force in Atlanta, for example, is 48 per cent black. But there is still oppression and discrimination. We haven't been able to find ways of changing things rapidly enough."

In Washington, that August day,

Martin Luther King also said: "I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

Whatever was happening in the rest of the United States, it was worse in Mississippi, poorest state in the union, where racism was brutal, embedded, legitimized.

Mississippians, black and white, look with wonder on the change from the days when soldiers had to make the state's demagogic leaders obey the law and desegregate. Charles Overby, executive editor of the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, the state capital, said: "I remember the day the first gubernatorial candidate shook hands publicly with a black man, knowing it would cost him votes."

"It used to be fashionable to be racist, part of the way of life. There was a great fear of the unknown in desegregation. But once the barrier was broken, people saw something good was happening. Everything here used to revolve around race. No longer. Mississippi held out to the last, now it is a model in race relationships."

Although race relations in Mississippi have improved, there is still prejudice. Whites fled the schools on desegregation, setting up private white academies. Some have failed because of poor teaching standards, some have run out of money. But white churches are supporting some of the white academies. The tradition of separate worship is still strong in the South. Black churches and white churches meet particular needs in their communities and have different styles of worship.

Gerrymandering and other manipulations have kept thousands of Mississippi blacks disfranchised or unable to get elected in black majority areas. Blacks are campaigning to end abuses, and to persuade people to register on the voters' lists - and to vote.

The effort is being led by the charismatic Jesse Jackson, a disciple of Martin Luther King, who has been roaming the South tirelessly, telling the crowds gathered in churches, cotton fields and under the shade of pecan trees: "There's a freedom train a-coming. But you've got to register to ride."

He tells them: "Reagan won Alabama by 17,000 votes, but there were 272,000 unregistered blacks. He won Arkansas by 5,000 votes, with 85,000

unregistered blacks..." He seeks to politicize and revitalize people who do not see voting as whites do, whose history of weariness and caution has deprived them of the community sense essential to the process of voting.

"I'm a catalyst," Jesse Jackson told me. "Inspiring participation in democracy. God is using me as a magnet to draw and inform people."

During the 1970s many blacks became convinced that managerial and corporate liberalism had been exposed as ineffectual. They also looked to the Carter Administration to make improvements. It was disappointing. The failures, the recession and the squeeze of Reaganomics, accelerated the emergence of Jesse Jackson, a more militant man than Martin Luther King.

"We've won freedom," he said. "But not equality."

His emphasis is on demands for an economic and political share of what white Americans have - "A share, not welfare" - and his activist organization, PUSH, confronts corporations, asking for better jobs deals.

Blacks are proud to have several big-city mayors among 5,000 elected black officials across the country. But 5,000 is only just over one per cent of the total, while blacks are nearly 12 per cent of the population. There are no black senators.

Typically, a black elected official is a well-educated, middle-aged, middle-class Democrat, voted in primarily by blacks. This profile demonstrates the difficulties blacks face in meeting America on equal terms. The middle class is the spring of political change, but the black middle class is very small and educational standards desperately need improvement. During the 1960s it was white civil rights workers who stiffened the ranks of the black middle class.

One of the key arenas for black assertion is in the Democratic Party, which blacks traditionally support. It is here that white intentions and liberal attitudes will be tested, perhaps painfully, for blacks are increasingly insistent that civil rights by themselves are not enough, that they must have political muscle and an economic payoff.

Twenty years ago Martin Luther King spoke at a time of struggle when hopes were running high. Today many blacks feel those hopes have been betrayed. The struggle is being renewed, and spirits are rising again. But the road looks harder.

moreover... Miles Kington

Fringe benefits, and worse

"I think you'll find our production of *Othello* is rather different. We only have four performers: Othello, Desdemona, and two Iagos. One of the Iagos is a man, the other is a woman. Oh, and Othello is white."

"I'm from New Zealand and I'm doing a one-man show based on Highland music. I happen to think that the Scots have lost sight of the history and meaning of their own music, and I've come over here to try and put them right."

"There are four deaf people in our production of Goldoni's play, and the whole thing is done with speaking and sign language simultaneously."

"We're both 18 and we've formed our own dance company called Moove Dancers. There are only the two of us in it. We must be mad."

"I think they must all be mad. I think I must be mad. This is the opening ceremony of the Edinburgh Fringe, the one chance the groups get to come face to face with the media, or at least administrators. SMichael Dale puts it, the time when the groups try to meet the press and the press tries to avoid the groups. There are hundreds of groups and they've all got a member here, handing out leaflets and doing a fast spiel about their show."

"Hi, we're the Hip Pocket Theatre from Fort Worth and we are the first Texan group ever to come to the festival, there are 45 of us doing three Texan plays and the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* has sent a reviewer all the way here just to review us. He flew home again afterwards."

"Hello, we're the Omelette Broadcasting Company and we are the only improvising comedy group on the fringe, we ask the audience for ideas at the start and then we improvise on them."

"I'm Richard Festerstein and I'm in an Athol Fugard play about a South African brother and sister. I play the brother, and the sister is played by my mother. We got a rave review in *The Scotsman* last year, right at the end, so we've come back again."

"We're doing *Ben Hur* at the Wireworks Theatre. Yes, we're doing the chariot race."

"We're the only group on the fringe doing eighteenth century music on authentic instruments."

"I have an exhibition of patchwork quilts at 4 Manor Place."

"Why are all these people telling me these things? Because only one member of each group is allowed in and one member of our group (Instant Sunshine, advt.) has already got in, so I am masquerading as a journalist. *The Times*, says my lapel badge. It was a bad mistake. All these people are now telling me this is very good."

"*Death in Caspary* is a play about solitary confinement. The set design is by Hugh Collins, who is serving a life sentence in Barmley Prison, but he is being allowed over for the day on Thursday to see the play. Yes, I think he will have to be accompanied."

"Hello, we're doing *Samson Agonistes* by Milton and Peter Dyer is playing all six parts, he's brilliant."

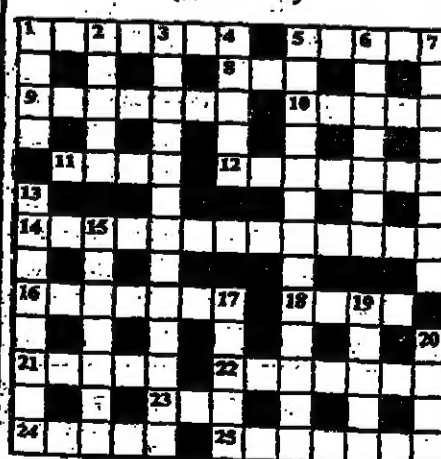
"Hello, we're doing a dramatization of stories written about Harry Lime by Orson Welles, yes, he wrote a whole book of them in 1953, nobody seems to have heard of them, published by the *News of the World*, funny enough, it's very good."

"Hello, we're doing a play called *Wolf Redempted*, it's a cross between *Red Riding Hood* and *Crime and Punishment*, oh and it's by an Iranian playwright and it's fantastic."

"Hello, I'm putting on *No Exit* by Sartre. There are no gimmicks. It's just a play and we're doing it straight. It's at the Edinburgh College of Art. No, no gimmicks at all. Sorry."

"It sounds great. This is the one I'll go and see. Something normal. Now, I start telling people about my group. I point to my lapel badge and say: 'I'm in a group called *The Times*, basically it's formed from ex-officials of *The Times*, yes, William Rees-Mogg, Harry Evans etc, and we're putting on a fast-moving musical about the rise of Rupert Murdoch, it's in Japanese and... it's so good. You can't make up anything as fantastic as the things already on the fringe."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 134)



- ACROSS
- Indications (7)
 - Abandon (5)
 - Twit (3)
 - Chase (7)
 - High clouds (5)
 - Only remaining (4)
 - Five lottery (7)
 - Five to decide (13)
 - Left out (7)
 - Opposed to (4)
 - Unison (5)
 - Beckley (7)
 - New Zealand (5)
 - Push slowly (7)
- DOWN
- Sprits (4)
 - Deep skin layer (5)
 - Riposte (13)
 - Swag (5)
 - Adaptation (13)
 - Covered walk (7)
 - Outer spalls (8)
 - Beneficial right (8)
 - Guzzled (7)
 - Remove trousers (5)
 - Accepter (5)
 - Touch (4)
- SOLUTION TO No 133
- ACROSS: 1 Voodoo 2 Sodium 3 BDM 4 Statue 5 Bitch 11 Inch 12 Idanger 13 Quarry 14 Sarc 17 Klondike 20 Pin 22 Actual 23 Chippy 24 Ape 25 Lycium 26 Refractor 27 Cyn 28 Ostra 3 Ditcher 4 Obesity 5 Scene 6 Doll 7 Shide 14 Unlucky 15 Spencer 16 Captive 18 New 19 Kama 21 Tepee
- (Solution to No 134 on Saturday's *Express* and *Sunday Express*)
- Book: *Holiday Jumbo Comics* (August) by Thomas

Abortion: Ireland divided once more

are being asked in confession which way they will vote.

The Church hierarchy appears aware of the dangers as well as the enormous changes that have taken place in Irish society and, while urging a majority for the amendment, has made clear that those opposed to it are not necessarily pro-abortion and that everyone has the right to vote according to conscience.

The proposed amendment has divided the Republic's churches, medical and legal professions, political parties, families, and even the country's largest farming organization. It has done untold damage to the liberal credentials of Dr Garret FitzGerald. And though the media have devoted much space and air-time to the arguments for and against, spilling out an unprecedented amount of information on gynaecological problems and family planning methods, doorstep ignorance on the issue is astonishing.

The amendment declares: "the state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and with due regard to the equal rights to life of the mother guarantees in its law to respect and, as far as practicable, by

its laws to vindicate and defend that right." But the content of the amendment is rarely mentioned. On the doorstep and campaign trail the issue is simplistic and emotive: for or against abortion.

Men show little or no interest, regarding the issue as "women's business", and some seem unable to understand the mechanics of voting in a referendum rather than in general and local elections.

Still more are impressed by a doctor's name appearing on the anti-amendment leaflet and on the words "if it's good enough for him it's good enough for me" are commonly heard. Among the middle classes, anti-clerical strains are apparent, with people objecting to the Roman Catholic clergy interfering as well as the placing in shops of pro-life leaflets urging people to vote. Yes.

Inevitably for some, it is a chance to knock Britain, portrayed as a Sodomy and Gomorrah. Some say that by passing the amendment Irish culture will be saved from complete Americanization. Never mind that many supporters of the amendment then watch the *BBC* and *Dallas*, and that 3,500 Irish women travel to England each year

for abortions. One woman said: "It will be a message to the world that Ireland does not want abortion and has some standards."

The issue has divided the nation but also created surprising alliances, bringing people of different creeds together to join the campaign against the amendment.

The 30-strong anti-amendment group in Carlow, comprising 24 Roman Catholics and six Protestants, is entirely middle-class - a matter they regret - but alongside the married men and women are young bachelors from both denominations who are out afternoon and night canvassing. For some it has been a risk to their professional and business interests to be seen in a rural area opposing the amendment. One young estate agent has already had a house withdrawn from his firm because of his stance.

Motives for joining the anti-amendment group are mixed. The issue has widened from a debate about a pro-life amendment to a discussion about the future of Ireland and the prospects for unity between north and south. Some are alarmed that the amendment could be the forerunner of attempts to make the family planning laws

more restrictive. Others see it as a step back to the 1950s. Mary McDermott, aged 37, a Roman Catholic doctor's wife, had never been involved in any political work or campaign until, she says, "I became so angry at this dreadful red herring being brought forward when Ireland has so many other problems."

She ignored the warning of her father that if she put up a Vote No poster, "a brick would be through the window within minutes" and can now laugh at the abuse she has received on the doorstep. Amendment proponents have lectured her about sex, admonishing that if there were no sexual intercourse there would be no need for abortion. Mrs McDermott knows the danger of being labelled an "abortionist" in a rural community, but says: "By standing up I gave other people courage. It helps being in a crowd as it makes up for all the mud-slinging that is going on."

She is alarmed that if the amendment is passed operations for ectopic pregnancies and cancer of the womb may be more difficult and that certain forms of contraceptive, the IUD and morning after pill, will no longer be available. She

said: "I see it as my duty to explain all this to women for their sake, their children and their grandchildren."

As the group meets to plan its evening's canvass, two Protestant brothers who joined because they saw the proposed amendment as a regression, an attempt to halt the liberalization of the last few years, admit that such a group would have been "unthinkable" 20 years ago. Said one: "Its existence shows a social change that has taken place and the number of Protestants involved is evidence that we are no longer prepared to sit back and opt for a quiet life. That happened too much in the past."

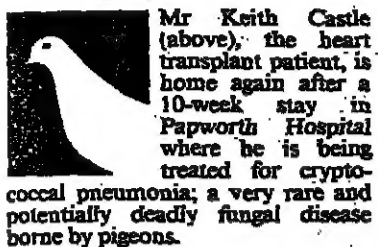
Many in the anti-amendment campaign privately believe they will lose the vote, pointing to the influence the clergy could have on the faithful on the last Sunday before polling. Others believe that they may lose the battle, but win the war.

The clamour for divorce, legalization of homosexuality and less-restrictive family planning laws will continue, as will influences from both east and west on the Emerald Isle. As one leading anti-amendment campaigner put it: "We'll let the Roman Catholic Church have the abortion issue, but all the youngsters will get the contraceptive."

Richard Ford

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Pigeon peril for heart patient



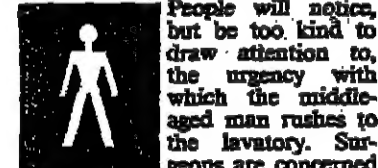
Mr Keith Castle (above), the heart transplant patient, is home again after a 10-week stay in Papworth Hospital where he is being treated for cryptococcal pneumonia, a very rare and potentially deadly fungal disease borne by pigeons.

Until June this year Mr Castle had not given much thought to pigeons. However, as he has enormous energy he decided recently to repair his roof. Pigeons were getting through the tiles and their droppings were mixing with the dust of ages on the floor of the roof space. It must have been this dust, breathed in by Mr Castle, which contained the lethal fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*.

He was aware of the infection only because of a fortunate chest X-ray, for the fungus does not give rise to symptoms and serious trouble until it has spread from the lungs. In his case the disease, diagnosed while still confined to the lungs, has been treated with the powerful antifungal agent Amphotericin B, which he has had intravenously for four hours every other day. He has now completed two-thirds of the course; for the last third he will be an out-patient. His many well-wishers will be glad to know that the infection is receding.

Pigeons can also carry another form of pneumonia, ornithosis, caused by *Chlamydia psittaci*. Although rather less rare than cryptococcosis, it is however much more easily treated with a prolonged course of heavy doses of oral tetracycline. People whose association with pigeons does not go beyond throwing them the occasional stale crust are unlikely to be affected.

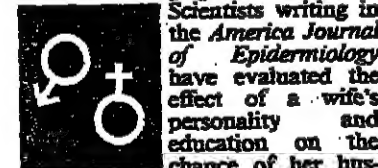
Needless dread



People will notice, but be too kind to draw attention to, the urgency with which the middle-aged man rushes to the lavatory. Surgeons are concerned that this conspiracy of politeness has given rise to a quite unnecessary dread which delays patients from having a necessary, statistically very safe, and quick operation. With a good surgeon, and if all goes well, a man may have a transurethral resection, the internal operation without any external wound, and be back at work within a fortnight.

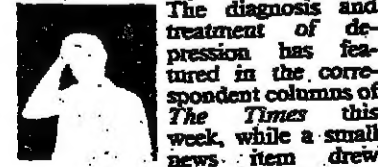
Although in most men with prostatic symptoms the enlargement can be classified as benign, in some the tissue has turned malignant. There is good news for these patients. Two studies published in *The Lancet* of a new ICI product suggest that soon treatment may be possible without a man having to tolerate mutilating surgery, or the side effects of huge, castrating doses of female hormones.

Partnership problems



Scientists writing in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* have evaluated the effect of a wife's personality and education on the chance of her husband developing heart disease. Data gleaned from 269 marriages followed over 10 years show that if striving ambitious men marry women who have had further education their chance of heart disease is increased by 2.5 times; if the wife works outside the home by 3.5 times. The danger can be minimized if the man chooses a woman with a similar personality to his own; married to an easy-going woman he will fare particularly badly.

New antidepressant



The diagnosis and treatment of depression has featured in the independent columns of *The Times* this week, while a small news item drew attention to a new antidepressant, bupropion, trade name Wellbutrin, which, it is claimed, can be effective in treating people who have failed to respond to other antidepressants. Papers on its use were enthusiastically received at the World Congress in Vienna, and reports in *The Clinical Journal of Psychiatry* were encouraging, but while the American FDA shows every sign of approval, rumours of doubts from the British Committee for Safety of Medicines have been heard. Bupropion, therefore, may join a long list of preparations which are available only on one side of the Atlantic.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Correction

In Madhur Jaffrey's cookery article on Wednesday, the recipe for carrots with raisins and dates should have read: "Five medium-sized carrots and 1 medium-sized onion, peeled."

It's just more bigger over there

The US came top of the list in a survey of children's holiday choices published this week. Alan Franks reports

If you have children between the ages of eight and 12, there is a strong likelihood that at least one of them is, where holidays are concerned, a nomadic, ice cream-loving, snail-hating aeronaut. Almost certainly, he or she is a thwarted Americanophile.

This much, and plenty more, emerges from a survey just released by MORI (Market and Opinion Research International). It was conducted for Thomas Cook, the travel agents, who were aware, like many parents, that the pre-adolescent sector has become, if not the seat of important summer decision-making, then at least a potent pressure group.

After all holidays, like houses and cars, are major items of family expenditure, and even if it is the parent who signs the cheque, it is no less the children who must live with the commitment. They derive much of their fascination from the fact that, again like houses and cars, they occupy the common ground between the two worlds of adults and children.

To influence the family's location for a fortnight, therefore, is to touch the levers of power.

MORI plumped for this age sector because, as director Tim Burns agrees, children younger than eight are hard to communicate with on abstract, hypothetical issues. They occupy their own fantasy worlds so vividly that the matter of a holiday's physical placement is not of primary importance. Once over 13, of course, they begin to think in terms of adult behaviour and we have only ourselves to blame for the results of their apings.

MORI began with three groups of children, each consisting of six members. The first comprised girls of nine from working class families; the second middle class girls of 12; and the third boys of 10 and 11 from a mixture of family backgrounds. From these preliminary interviews was evolved a 12-part questionnaire in which 509 children took part during half-term holidays at the beginning of June. They were drawn from a broad cross-section of age (within the four-year span), social class, and region.

According to Burns, the process was a surprisingly educative one for parents as well as for Cooks. Under the code of conduct laid down by the Market Research Society, an adult must always be present at an interview with a child, and one of



the most popular parental misconceptions to be lanced during these sessions was that children have a sort of holiday homing instinct - a desire to return to the same place year after year.

In fact only 32 per cent wanted to go back, with 64 per cent favouring fresh pastures and 4 per cent undecided.

Of those fresh pastures, North America is clearly the most popular, favoured by half those interviewed with Europe in second place on a 34 per cent vote. Britain claims only 8 per cent, level with Australia and New Zealand.

Sadly, these figures are a world away from reality, since just 1 per cent of the children made it to the States last year, 16 per cent to Europe, none to the Antipodes - but 78 per cent to Britain. The transatlantic lure is best summarized by this quote from an eight-year-old girl: "America's more bigger than all the other countries. The best bit about America is Disneyland. It's got three countries in America, it's got Washington DC, New York and Sidney."

Not that the badly under-subsidized Australia is without its romance, if you heed this 10-year-old blade: "I'd go to Australia, probably with a girl or something like that."

Burns says that, while he, like many parents, was surprised by the "wanderlust" element in the returns, the penchant for America was predictable. "As you can see, although few have been, there is a certain level of knowledge that all children share about the States, partly from the TV of course, but also from the importation of what you could call the McDonalds culture... the country appears to them to be bigger, brasher, livelier and more exciting, all aspects which are very important. In this respect, America is a childlike country."

It is not just cost that inhibits parents from taking family holidays to America; there are the four other disincentives of food; healthcare; heat/climate; and travel problems, none of which loom nearly as large in a United Kingdom venture. What parents are obviously failing to grasp is that "Abroad" is not just a concept, it is actually another country.

In the words of this nine-year-old girl: "Abroad there'll be nicer beaches and the seas are warmer, the beach will be warmer, there'll be sand." Sentiments echoed by another girl with three years more experience of these matters: "Abroad you get a better suntan than you would here." Yet the harsh truth is that only 37 per cent of the sample

have already travelled abroad, compared with the total of 79 per cent who still want to go for a first or subsequent time.

Parents also have much to learn about family democracy. In 84 per cent of the cases, the decision on where to go is taken by "Mum or Dad only", while the children hold sway in only 16 per cent of households. Girl aged 12: "Well, my parents decide where to go and ask us if we'd like to go there." Girl aged nine: "We have this quiz, who goes where, and my Dad normally wins."

Aeroplane are the most popular means of getting there with 47 per cent of the vote, followed by hovercraft (27), ship (16), train (eight), car (six) and coach (one). Sea travel, of course, has its problems, as this 12-year-old girl explains so graphically: "You start to get your start to get ill."

Taking all forms of travel together, only 27 per cent said they felt sick - in some cases, like this boy of 11, for unexpected reasons: "Setting off you start feeling sick sometimes because you are so bored and can't wait."

Among girls, hotels emerge as the favourite accommodation, for excellent reasons such as these, both from 12-year-olds: "A hotel is posh, you meet new people"; and: "In a hotel

you get room service, if you make a mess it's all cleared up for you." Boys share the judgment, but only with a figure of 39 per cent compared with the girls' 53 per cent. For both genders, a camp site is second choice and a villa third.

The top five desiderata at hotels are: swimming pool, restaurants and bars, indoor games, nice beds and outdoor games. "Fitted carpets and a waiter to bring my food by the pool," says a 10-year-old girl. "Marble tiles in the corridors so I can make a noise with my shoes," says a male contemporary.

Ice cream tops the list of favourite holiday fare (only two per cent declaring it "horrid"), but all the other popular options (fish and chips, soup, fried chicken and french bread) score in the high eighties or nineties. In the hate poll, snails just outstrip frogs legs, with octopus only slightly less loathsome.

The ten "most fun activities" are, in order: staying up late, swimming in a pool, playing on the beach, going to an adventure playground, attending parties/barbecues, swimming in the sea, playing with other English children, boating and water sports, going to discos, and eating in a restaurant.

Less fun activities include going for a drink with Mum and Dad, watching parades and playing in hotel lifts.

While away, only 36 per cent miss home, 60 per cent do not, and four per cent are uncertain. Most sorely missed by one respondent is "Foxy the cat, Bramble my best Teddy, and my bed." The quote is not attributed, but, with altered names, the sentiments are infinitely transferable.

Mr Andrew Barrett, marketing director of Cooks, believes that his company, thus armed, will be better able to point the undecided parent, or indeed child, in the right direction. As you read this, he himself is travelling to Disneyland with his two young children, who have been pressing him for an answer to the question: "How big are the Mickey Mouses and do they move about?" Meanwhile, I am going to the Lake District for the umpteenth time, to stay with my wife's seven-year-old god-daughter, do hope her parents are there, since chatting to them is high on my list of fun activities. My daughter, who is five, longs to stay there year after year, which is fortunate.

One reason for this - not the main one I hope - is that the older girl has a splendid wardrobe of dresses which devolve to her as the most radiant of hand-me-downs. But that, I suppose, is cheating.

COMMENT Hooray for Hackney

As I walked home along the canal in the blazing sunshine, I thought how pleasant it was to live in this part of London. In view was a duck with eight ducklings, little boys fishing, grandparents walking pretty little children. Where was I? I discovered that I have been happily living for the past eight years in a "no-go area for almost all except those compelled to remain there," according to Gerald Kaufman, in his column last Monday, and Paul Harrison, who has written a book called *Inside the Inner City*. What? Can this be Hackney, hub of the universe?

Can this be the place I moved to because I like it, where I could afford a house, and where the services were good? Far from fleeing the place, I propose to stay in Hackney for the rest of my days.

Not only can I walk to work, I can take any one of seven bus routes. The service is intermittent (as in the rest of London) but there is also the secret railway from Dalston Junction to Richmond, and the newly opened Kingsland station. Within a few moments walk of my gracious Hackney home I have two excellent public libraries, the church I attend, and a number of friendly shops.

All hours of the day and night appear to be worked and these are also the hours I walk about the place, returning home from the theatre and parties in the middle of the night without coming to any harm.

I have been burgled twice. The second time, with the aid of my neighbours, the police caught the burglars. The household in London which has not been burgled is a fortunate one.

My house, which was indeed in a sad state when I bought it, has been put in order by me. When I moved there in 1975 there were six derelict within 200 yards. Now there are none - all have been repaired. The bombed site opposite has been filled with council houses - not a dreary block, but a reasonable imitation of a London town house. I like the street markets, the frenetic activity of Ridley Road, the garden market on Sundays.

On Sundays the congregation at Mass reflects the population - Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, black. That variety is what keeps a neighbourhood alive. In Hackney we frighten the children with tales of dark satanic mills in Mr Kaufman's constituency of Gorton, Manchester. None of us has ever set foot in the place.

"Petition, £3.95.

Philippa Toomey

TALKBACK

Working with a baby in the house

Margery Roberts wrote last week of the impossibility of mixing a career with bringing up children.

From Audrey Macleod, 94 Woodward Road, Dulwich

Now Mrs Roberts (First Person, August 19), get your hands out of that bucket of Nappies and put aside your baby wipes. Widen your thinking and be glad you are able to look after your healthy, active kids yourself, for a career plus nanny/granny would undoubtedly trouble your anxieties. Relax and enjoy your small children now while at the same time working to change some of your inflexible attitudes.

May I suggest a modest survival kit? First, decide on priorities and job-share some of these with your husband, and secondly aim for a tiny oasis of freetime each day, however scant, and guard it jealously.

Keep your own interests going and your friends (the ones who accept you as you are, and be selfish and spoil yourself often). This way you will be better able to meet the unending demands of others without feeling permanently deprived.

Replace the grudging "I suppose I shall have to resign myself to motherhood alone" by a more informed and positive approach. You could see yourself as entering an enriching period of growth and emotional development.

From Mary R Lamberton, 48 The Avenue Kew, Surrey

I am a visitor from America. May I suggest to Margery Roberts how I and others manage to do it without the aid of nannies or mothers-in-law.

I have two children aged eight and five and I have been working for three years for a magazine publisher in Washington, D.C. I can do this for the following reasons:

1 An employer who is willing to hire me for 20-30 hours a week paying my salary on an hourly basis.
2 A school which offers day care after regular school hours until 6pm.
Actually, I have never used this myself as I like to come home with the children, but it is a valuable service.

3 A short commute which is only ten minutes in my case.

4 A job which one can perform outside the office. Primary times for a mother are Saturdays when fathers can take over and evenings and early mornings when children are asleep. This flexibility is important when chickenpox appears.

5 Domestic help. I have a daily



once a week which maintains my sanity and minimum standards.

6 A supportive husband.

The advantages of being a working mother outweigh the demands from home and office.

From Mrs Jennifer White, 9 Birch Way, Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Margery Roberts is right - the only way a mother can work is to abandon her child to someone else. However, I must object to her slur on child-minders. As a minder for the past five years, I feel it my duty to point out that we are registered by the council, our houses are checked for safety and first-aid provision and we are limited to three pre-school children at any one time.

We have an area supervisor, regular meetings and access to a toy library. We aspire towards being semi-professionals. Generally, our press image has improved since the "baby farm" scandals of the sixties, and rightly so.

We are not simply second best to a nanny. In fact, we have some advantages over the nanny, apart from being cheaper. Child-minders are usually mothers themselves and are used to children, indeed we enjoy their company.

From Mrs Susan Hawke, 24 Cowside Road, Great Glenn, Leicester

Margery Roberts mirrors much of my own experience. After 13 years at home with under-fives I know that I would be incapable of combining a career and the care of my family with any degree of success or semblance of sanity.

I count myself fortunate. My husband's salary is sufficient to enable me to stay at home to care for the family and although our lifestyle is relatively simple we have no genuine need for a second income.

But let us spare a thought for the unsung heroine of the low-income or single-parent family. She often has no such choice and is forced to work

long, boring hours in an unfulfilling job before returning home to tackle the household tasks that take Margery Roberts and me a whole day to complete.

From Margaret Galling, Almondbury, Carters Lane, Old Woking, Surrey

I have recently resumed a career as part-time midwife after a three-year break in which I had two children, went to university, started keeping chickens and had a jolly good time.

I have been sadly disillusioned. In my own home I am the kingpin - sit as judge and jury for all family misdemeanours. My husband is far too busy.

Why on earth then did I feel the need to be important outside my family? I really don't know because the ghastly truth is that I am not! My brain seems perfectly capable, but my hands seem to have become prematurely senile as they wrestle with new-fangled drip sets and fancy machines.

My personal confidence has hit an all-time low as I have been told by an eighteen-year-old that I'm putting on nappies the wrong way and have got my mask on upside down.

The final blow is, of course, it's not really My Very Own Money. It must go to the joint finances. I would be peeved, after all, if my husband claimed his salary as His Very Own Money.

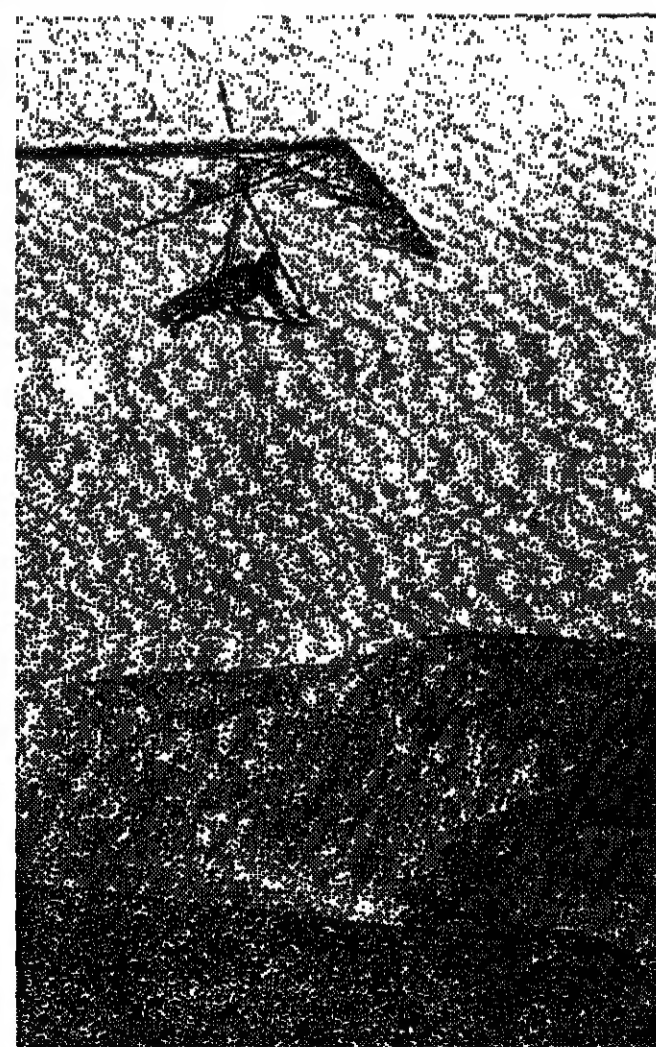
From Mrs S. E. Minchin, 14 Macklinburgh Square, London

When Margery Roberts is 50 or thereabouts, I wonder how she will receive a request from her daughter/daughter-in-law to be a nanny (unpaid) to a brood of grandchildren, simply because their mother wants the best of both worlds.

Does it not occur to Mrs Roberts that mothers/mothers-in-law want a life of their own now that they are no longer "holding the baby"?

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



● **EASY GLIDER:** How safe is hang-gliding now? why more women are taking it up.

● **TRAVEL:** The present appeal of Syria's past; Carnival time in the Caribbean;



● **FAMILY MONEY:** How much should your mortgage cost you?

● **SPORT:** Cricket - the Fourth Test Match; football - preview of the season's opening matches.

THE GREAT WIN-A-CAR COMPETITION

Plus

All the news from home and abroad; the Times Garden Project; Values on value for money for back-packers; Drink on Austrian wines; critics' choice of what's happening in the arts; selected guide to next week's events.

THE TIMES DIARY

No surrender

Where is the instrument of surrender signed by Major-General Jeremy Moore and General Menendez in the Falklands? Ian Kerr, who is marketing framed reproductions of the contemporary photocopy at £19.90 each, says no one can tell him the whereabouts of the original. It is officially denied that Moore has it, though the late Lord Montgomery certainly kept for the rest of his life the surrender signed at Lunenburg Heath. That document passed to the Imperial War Museum, with Monty's car and other papers, after his death. "Is the Falklands surrender on Maggie's too door?" Kerr asks irreverently. My PHSnoop in Downing Street sneaked a look, and it's not.

Bitter

The Campaign for Real Ale has declared war on an International Lager Festival, and banned its promoters. Watney Mann and Turrill, from next month's Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham. There is indeed little international about the lagers featured. Carlsberg is brewed in Northampton, and Fosters and Holsten Drought come from Morlaix. Holsten Diat Pils is brewed in Hamburg, but bottled at Isleworth. Lagers brewed here are weaker than their continental counterparts and their price is 10p to 15p a pint more than is charged for the more flavoured and traditional English bitter. The British Beer Festival organizer, Tim Webb, says: "Watney's are cynically using the festival idea to promote lagers only weeks before taking part in the biggest festival of traditional British beers. We could not let them get away with it." I'll drink to that.

● In California, a PHSoot report, there is a French restaurant next door to a dealer in gemstones. They are jointly called Chic-by-Jewel.

Shrinking

As a bookseller Sigmund Freud has come a little closer to my office. His likeness, sculpted by Lynn Kramer, presided for years behind the counter of Bernard Stone's shop in Covent Garden. Now Stone has bought Sigsy, as old customers know him, to Lamb's Conduit Street, Bloomsbury, and just in time for the street fair. New customers mistake Freud for an uncooperative assistant, and complain of his extreme taciturnity. This will not change, I fear, when he is shortly joined by Leonardo da Vinci.

Skin deep

Here is another winning sausage joke, this one from Mrs F. M. Pelling of Much Hadham: A hen-pecked husband was sent to buy some steak. "Here you are, sir," said the butcher "tender as a woman's heart." "In that case," replied the man, "I'll take a pound of sausages."

BARRY FANTONI



"But darling, they sell perfectly good hamburgers at Fado's!"

Best of Spike

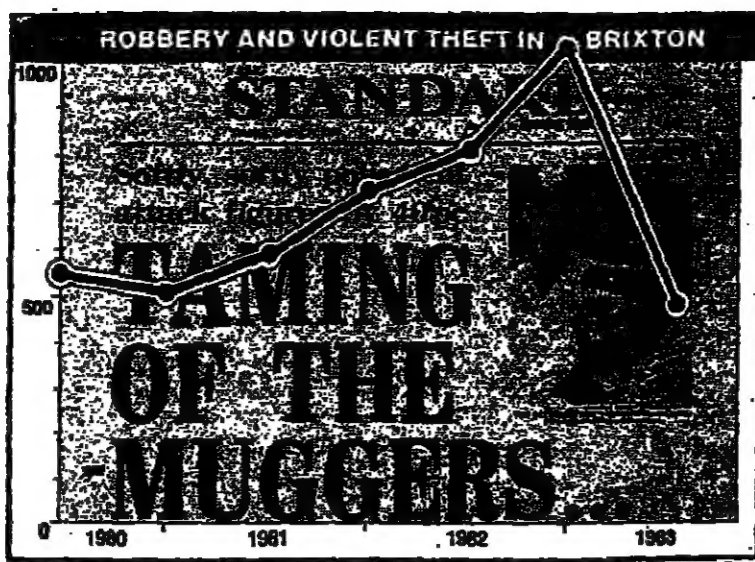
Pauline Scudamore of Upper Cheyne Row, SW3, is guaranteed a pretty funny mailbag in the coming weeks. She is appealing for anecdotes to include in an authorized life of Spike Milligan. Milligan is at present in South Africa, visiting an elephant he has adopted and named Mrs Thatcher, and only yesterday my colleague on the *Daily Mirror* was reminiscing that he once found Spike in the early hours in Soho, sitting alone in a large duffin. When the lady who is now his wife was sent to Milligan as a temporary secretary, the first letter he dictated to her went: "Dear Pope, I am not going to be a Catholic any more if you do not stop experiments on animals. Your semi-loyal servant, Spike." Yet when I attended a reunion of the Spike Milligan Old Comrades Association I was surprised how uncomradely they were. "Spike Milligan's wholly unreliable," one complained. "My invitation to this party gave completely the wrong address, and none of my friends here got one at all."

Michael Pomtney, books merchandise controller for W. H. Smith, will be displeased to see this item in the latest issue of the *WHS* paper, *Newspack*. Pomtney explains to an offended manager that it was only decided to stock the book *101 Uses for the Unemployed*, from which my illustration comes, because it would be "news" if they did not. "If we were not to buy it," Pomtney argues, "a lot more attention and sales would be drawn to the book than would otherwise happen". So instead they plan to "sell it but do nothing particular to promote it." And still they get attention.

PHS

George Brock on the problems of interpreting crime statistics

Mugging: what is the truth?



To judge by the confidence of the headlines which appear as a result of almost any official announcement, good or bad, about crime rates, the figures should command respect for their accuracy and authority. Percentages and unrounded numbers sound so scientific. But behind the headlines, such respect seems curiously lacking. Take Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, last year: "What precisely do the statistics tell us about the state of criminality in the nation and what do they suggest should be done about it? Very little, is the answer I would give."

Or the Police Federation magazine, in the same year: "No informed person regards the existing criminal statistics as the most reliable indicator of the state of crime." Or the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, in the House of Lords: "So far as the statistics are concerned, I propose to say nothing, except that they are mostly misleading and very largely unintelligible."

Last week, the police in Lambeth released figures showing that crimes classified as "robbery and other violent theft" had fallen during the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year (see table). This swiftly translated into "Muggings down 40 per cent" headlines, with an accompanying gloss from local senior police officers. "I personally feel that we are winning the battle of Brixton," said one.

So far, the more moderate local organizations represented on the Lambeth Police Consultative Group have endorsed the police optimism and are eager customers for crime figures which they are now given once a month. The black youths who continue to distrust the police and such committees remain, as before, on the outside.

Crime figures should be handled very gingerly. Mugging generates more political heat than any other crime, and is at the same time one of the most difficult to count precisely. Legally, there is no such thing, and the word is loosely used to refer to a host of different classifications which policemen and academics have used to sift crime reports and statistics. For the purpose of the most detailed internal analyses, Scotland Yard's G10 statistical branch defines mugging as "the offence of robbery of personal property in the open when there is no previous association between the offender and victim." (The standard definition of robbery automatically implies the use or threat of force.)

When senior officers wish to refer to mugging, they point to the streets, but generally it has shown great restraint. Lathi charges have often been conducted by policemen at walking pace, intimidating the crowds by banging their long, iron-shod canes on the road or walls, but without actually breaking heads.

Police shootings, a common enough event in the sub-continent, have taken place only where property was being destroyed and life threatened. A rapidly mounting death toll, or the killing of some revered figure, could spread the disturbances from the one turbulent province to the rest of the country. This regime is plainly anxious to avoid.

So far the techniques appear to be working, except in Sind. But Sind is a special case. The southern province has long felt itself oppressed by the rest of Pakistan, and particularly by the Punjab. Sindhis complain that their senior government officials are brought in from outside, that they have not participated to the same extent as the Punjab in the country's economic expansion.

A quarter-page advertisement in a Karachi newspaper this week illustrates why the Sindhis feel persecuted. It complains about the special tax that Karachi has to pay on petrol to ensure that fuel costs are the same all round the country despite the cost of transporting it to distant provinces. At the same time it objects to having to pay a higher electricity tariff than the rest of the country, where hydro-electric schemes provide cheaper current than Karachi's thermal generators.

statistical categories "robbery" and "other violent theft," which draw in a much broader range of offences. They cover anything from a shotgun raid on a bank or shop to a purse snatch. This crudity inflated the row over the Yard's decision to release figures for the colour of suspects in these categories alone.

"The Yard blames black muggers," said one headline among many when the figures - which looked considerably less sensational with non-mugging robbery and theft subtracted - were announced.

In the case of Brixton during the first six months of this year, the local head of the CID, Chief Superintendent Ray Adams, is sure that the "middle band" of robberies - street robberies - is the one that has fallen as a result of new tactics in the area which include "targeted" surveillance of likely locations and suspects, more officers on the streets, and close attention to community cooperation. "It's an opportunistic crime and we've cut down the opportunities," he said this week.

Other kinds of crime in Brixton, and the rest of Lambeth, have remained at much the same level as before, suggesting that the special attention given to street robbery recently may have had real effect. Whether the figures stay down will depend what lies behind the drop. Street robbers have sometimes turned out to be few in number but very active: a handful of people may commit dozens of offences. If the right handful have been caught, the effect on the statistics can be long lasting. If however extra policemen on the street are simply deterring robbers who are waiting for quieter

times, keeping up the deterrent means keeping up the policing level.

Since the end of last year, L division has enjoyed the services of 93 extra men and also benefited from the transfer of men to "home beat" duties from other jobs. The local commander, Mr Alex Marsh, readily admits that "I've been getting more than my cut of the cake."

Experiments elsewhere with special measures for particular crimes have sometimes simply driven the figures down by driving the criminals into the set of statistics next door. At the moment, it is impossible to tell whether or not L division's criminals have dispersed to other places where they will attract less attention and publicity. Equivalent figures are not available for neighbouring parts of south London. Other parts of L division than Brixton report generally stable crime rates, except Streatham, where robbery and other violent theft are slightly up. One Streatham residents' association has already complained that its interests are being neglected at the expense of its more famous neighbours.

There are more general reasons for scepticism in the face of crime figures. Academic studies have shown that the crimes which are reported are a fraction of those actually committed. The studies differ on the size of the "dark figure" of unreported crime, estimates ranging from five to 15 times the reported rate. Some crime "rises" appear to reflect only a rise in the number of crimes which the police are told about. A recent Home Office study suggested that during the 1970s the rate of burglary stayed

almost level, while the number of reported burglaries rose steadily - a change perhaps explained by the rapid spread of home insurance policies, which require break-ins to be notified to the police.

Other studies have shown that the rate of reported crime can fluctuate out of all relation to the real rate at which it is happening, others that the ways in which policemen write off certain incidents as "no crime" - a practice known as "cuffing" - varies enormously, from area to area. During the past 10 years, the ways in which local statistics were collected and used to grab lurid headlines caused enough concern at the Home Office for the launching of several studies to correct some of the wilder misapprehensions. Much more recently, sterner measures have been taken. Since this summer, local forces inside the Metropolitan Police may not release their own figures until the raw material of the crime reports has been forwarded to the central statistical experts for vetting.

This still leaves the process private and ill understood. The compilation and use of crime figures is becoming one of the elements in the accountability battle being waged between Scotland Yard and the GLC and boroughs which have established inquisitive police committees. The figures in Brixton have also been, and still are, a weapon in the post-Scamman debate inside the police about crime strategies.

When Scamman's post-mortem prescription first appeared, the police went on the offensive to discredit his proposals. The chairman of the Police Federation told his members that "saturation" policing was the only answer to mugging; muggings had doubled since the riots, said the *Daily Telegraph*; it was Britain's "top crime," said the *Daily Mirror*; and the Deputy Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard claimed that Scamman had undermined the police's ability to act decisively. All this has now faded into silence and been replaced by an optimistic "softly softly" front, and cautious celebration of the new figures.

None of this is likely to satisfy the voices calling for greater accountability for the Metropolitan Police, who would like, among other things, the power to examine and vet the machinery which turns out crime figures. In the words of Walter Essey, head of Camden Council's police committee support unit: "The police are a huge nationalized industry. What other one of those would let so much activity go by without proper accountability auditing?"



Zia: arrests then restraint

much more remote and sparsely inhabited, and the MRD leadership was caught wrong-footed at the start of the civil disobedience campaign by an open split between the ancient "Frontier Gandhi", Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who leads the National Democratic Party, and its partner, the Pakistan People's Party formerly led by the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Partly because of this and other splits, and because of the extent of the government preparations, many observers have tended to underestimate the ability of the MRD to keep together and to organize an extended campaign of agitation.

To give the campaign credibility, the leaders of the movement, and particularly of the Pakistan People's Party, the dominant force in the MRD, have had to work all out to build up momentum.

The initial impetus was given by a skillfully organized mass demonstration at the tomb of the founder of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, and on independence day, when there would be many people on the streets and away from work anyway. That momentum has been kept up by the *sarhadis* - the landed aristocracy - working to keep the leadership of the popular movements.

But the campaign now needs another nudge to keep it moving. The trade unions are standing on the sidelines before deciding how to react. Organized labour has been kept more or less quiet recently by one or two large wage settlements. Those to benefit include all government servants, a piece of bribery that may well cost a good deal in inflation later but generates a present possible cause of grievance.

President Zia has been lucky with the weather too. Good monsoon rains have dampened demonstrators' ardour, and the floods have given them plenty to do at home protecting their crops and houses.

Michael Hamlyn

David Watt

Giving the voters what they want

You can tell quite a lot about politicians from their holiday photographs. Harold Macmillan's penchant for pictures of himself in plus-fours surrounded by 12-bore aristocrats, Ted Heath's sailing shots, John Kennedy playing touch football on the Hyannis beach, Lyndon Johnson prodding steers on the banks of the Pedernales, Harold Wilson seen guarding the approaches to the Channel from his Scillies cottage - all these were, highly revealing because they displayed the kind of person the subject was supposed to be when he wasn't being a politician. This is a matter of course importance in the image-building business, for voters like to identify with "the real person" behind the official persona or at least to share a little of his fantasy life.

Mrs Thatcher, paradoxically, is on to a rather good and characteristic thing with her disappearance from camera view behind the expensive respectability of a Swiss chalet, for it encourages visions of cosy bourgeois privacy to which a lot of Tory voters no doubt aspire. But it is Ronald Reagan chopping logs on his California ranch and thinking about whether he will or will not run for the presidency in 1984, who takes the prize in this department. His appearance displays everything that the ordinary American voter can desire - immense wealth and a healthy on-the-range life-style with a touch of the old frontier thrown in. The log-chopping play is not exactly new; Mr Gladstone thought of it first and even used to hand out the wood-chips to visiting Liberal delegations as souvenirs. But it effectively implies that this septuagenarian is a healthy, energetic sort of type, well capable of carrying the burdens of the presidency for another four years, etc.

In short, this is exactly how Americans would like their president to relax and it is another example of Mr Reagan's apparently effortless ability to do the thing most likely to elicit sympathy and warmth from his fellow countrymen. Assuming that he does decide to run next year - and there is not a lot of doubt about it - it is the almost universal view of American commentators that this instinctive rapport will secure his election.

This is a phenomenon worth thinking about. What the conventional wisdom is stating is that Reagan will get a second term partly because American presidents normally do go beyond terms but mainly because, the American people, if forced to choose, would rather have a nice guy in the White House than a genuinely effective president. It goes without saying that a man like Jimmy Carter, whom the American people came to the conclusion is not "nice" in the required sense, under the American system cannot be an effective president, but we are now hearing something more startling than that. The implication is that there is very little that could be perpetrated or left undone in American domestic or foreign policy between now and November 1984 that would make much difference to the outcome of the election.

Those who find this sobering proposition unpalatable have two possible escapes, neither entirely satisfactory. The first is to say that

the whole thesis is an exaggeration. If, for instance, the President got involved in what could plausibly be labelled a "Vietnam situation" in Central America, or if the economy completely collapsed again, things might become very difficult. And if the "nice guy" image became tarnished by some personal scandal they would look very different indeed - hence the apparently ludicrous amount of attention given to the "Debategate" question of whether Mr Reagan was or was not party to the theft of Mr Carter's television notes in the 1980 election.

All this is true and sets realistic limits to Mr Reagan's popularity. But the fundamental point remains intact. The Atlantic alliance could fall apart, another Middle East war could break out, and another recession of quite serious dimensions be created under the Administration's monetary neglect without reversing Mr Reagan's fortunes. People would simply say: "Well, OK, he's not the greatest, but he did his best and he's a hell of a nice guy."

The alternative response - and presumably the one that would be adopted by Mrs Thatcher - is that only disappointed Keynesians would delude themselves that Reagan will win in 1984 in spite of his policies. On the contrary, Reagan's popularity is due as much to his robust conservatism as it is to his boyish smile and winning ways. The American people, like the British, have cast off the shackles of wet liberalism and are now ready to applaud a leader who is publicly committed to rolling back the frontiers of the state at home and the menace of communism abroad.

But the trouble with offering this as the chief explanation of Reagan's popularity is that Reagan has been so bad at following his own prescriptions that he has lost low budgets, low taxation, "supply side" growth - all these have been tried and either found impossible or wanting, then rejected in favour of something else and then tried again - and all without producing the lasting prosperity that was originally promised. The American economy is at last having its boom but interest rates and unemployment are at fearful levels and nobody has any great confidence that it will last. As for all the anti-Soviet rhetoric, there is nothing to show for it except an over-extended defence budget which the Congress (not exactly insensitive to public opinion) has refused to pass. Moreover the internal relations of the Government are a shambles. Hardly a day passes without some press story of major rows.

The average American voter who observes all this cannot be expected to share the private view of most politicians and officials in Western Europe - namely that this is almost certainly the most dangerously incompetent American administration since the Second World War. But he is aware that the Conservative promise of cool, profitable, minimal government could hardly be further from fruition. What saves the President from the fate of Jimmy Carter, who was actually more efficient, is the lack of a plausible Democratic opponent - and the national reverberations of an axe wielded on a California ranch by a nice guy in a lumberjack's shirt.

Philip Howard

Serving for a hole in one

If only I could get rid of the unforgotten errors, I should be champion. The service is going better this summer. Well, put it this way: there are marginally fewer double faults, and the in-swinging first service delivered with a stiff arm and a hideous grimace has occasionally touched the line of the backhand court, and crashed into the net like a startled pheasant. But the backhand has developed a nervous and pitiful scoop that lobs the ball gently up towards the net and the volleys have been flying off the wood in whimsical directions like spinners in a sawmill.

The trouble about having a mother who won a Wimbledon doubles championship is that one thinks that tennis ought to come naturally by birthright, without coaching or practice. Every summer after watching the professionals at Wimbledon make it look easy, I think I am going to be a champion at last this year. Then on holiday I get out on the court, and fantasy gives way to reality and 0-40, set point, double faults. Are you quite sure it was out? Dammit.

Mind you, I blame the tools, like any bad workman. The racket is an obsolete pre-war make called "The Improved Phenomenon". It has lost a string or two at the edges, and has been warped by the Scotch mist of 50 summers into a lopsided and sinister irregularity like a grinning face. The court was home-made in 1931, when news of this strange new game had penetrated darkest Ayrshire, and everybody who was anybody in the county suddenly had to have a tennis court. "The qualifications of a fine gentleman are to eat a la mode, drink champagne, dance jigs, and play at tennis," - Thomas Shadwell (or so the seventeenth century. They are still trying up here in Ayrshire, without much success.

backhand in the twinkling of an eye. The surface is hard on the ball, and wears through the bottom of the toughest of gym shoes in three sets. It is cheaper to play in gumboots, and never to let the ball bounce, if only you can manage to hit your volleys in. And, whoops, there goes another one through the chicken netting into the matted jungle of thistles, bracken, and rhododendrons. I should think there must be several hundred completely bald tennis balls within 50 yards of where I am standing now. They will present a pretty puzzle to future archaeologists. A factory for manufacturing cult objects, or some sort of ritual trading system, like the shells of the Trobriand Islanders, would you say, professor?

The passage of time and gumboots has cracked the surface. The western end looks like the surface of the moon or the trenches on the sun. It plays like it too. It has been infected by a slimy creeping fungus like seaweed that manages inconspicuously to combine extreme slipperiness with extreme underlying abrasiveness. There is a distinct advantage for the home team against anybody who comes new and innocent to the court. On good days I fancy my chances on it against McEnroe - for the first set I do not think that the grumpy old grunter would take kindly to the clouds of midges and horribles that come out towards evening, filling the air and mowing of anybody unwary enough to open it.

The tattered chicken netting is interlaced with brambles and wild raspberry canes, so that frivolous tennis players have been known to disregard a service completely while guzzling yellow raspberries on the baseline. This fecklessness (or sensible order of priorities) can drive the server to despair (or at any rate two consecutive double faults). The balls disappear down the rabbit holes which have spread even inside the netting.

Roger Boyes

مکرمات الاصل



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

M MITTERRAND EXPLAINS

In his first major explanation of French policy in Chad, President Mitterrand has emphasized that French troops would not be restricted to "purely defensive retaliation" if attacked, and blamed Libya for escalating the fighting in the long civil war. This was a sensible acknowledgment that once seriously committed to military action, the French would find attack the best means of defence. It simultaneously warned Colonel Gaddafi that he should permit a peaceful settlement now rather than risk greater loss of face after a direct clash develops between French and Libyan troops.

By stating that while partition would be unacceptable, a federal solution might be possible and that he expected the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and United Nations to help arrange peace talks, President Mitterrand was making it easier for the Libyan leader to back down. But neither the OAU nor the UN have proved effective in such crises in the past. If it does come to war, Mitterrand has prepared the French public and answered his critics by pointing out that the slow buildup of French forces had both postponed the clash and revealed Libya to all as the aggressor.

The growing French involvement in Chad requires such delicate handling in both foreign and domestic policy that the President's reluctance to discuss the issues fully in public is understandable. But his careful answers to questions agreed beforehand in an interview published yesterday in *Le Monde* have failed to silence complaints that the population is not being

properly informed about a situation which arouses threatening memories of long years of bloodshed in Indochina and Algeria. Media rivals see the interview as a reward for the sympathetic coverage *Le Monde* has given President Mitterrand, and feel with some justice that a more open statement of policy is called for.

Few Frenchmen trust fully President Hissène Habré as representing their interests in Chad, remembering as they do his hostility as a rebel less than a decade ago, when for three years he held hostage the French anthropologist Mme Françoise Claustre. They fear that the presence of their troops may encourage him to launch a counter-offensive in the hope that the French would be compelled to increase their military commitment in restoring his position against Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who formerly, when President, also received French support.

According to a recent survey, little more than a quarter of those polled supported sending troops to Chad, while over half were opposed. President Mitterrand attempted to calm these fears by stressing that French troops would not be manipulated into participating in a counter-attack "France will not allow itself to be led where it does not want to go". This protestation does not, of course, exclude a counter-attack if provoked by the Libyan-backed forces.

It is important for President Mitterrand that he should not appear to be acting for Washing-

ton in attempting to contain Colonel Gaddafi's expansionism. He regards negotiation, rather than military conflict, as the best way of settling the war while preserving France's commercial interests in Libya. Last week *Le Monde* reported that President Mitterrand was irritated at what he regarded as US pressure and had emphasized that French policy is made in Paris. Some of that irritation was still present in his latest statement when he commented that "the Americans have been much taken up with us; yes, very much".

This attitude helps deal with the left-wing critics who are particularly sensitive about accusations that a socialist government is pursuing in Africa the gendarme policy of Gaullist administrations. The Communists have voiced their anxiety about sending troops to Chad, but after pushing the Soviet line so strongly on the Geneva disarmament talks, they cannot expect to continue in government if they adopt too closely the Kremlin view that France is being edged by Washington into a "neo-colonialist venture, a Vietnam, Chad-style".

President Mitterrand's exposition yesterday contained a tough message for Colonel Gaddafi, warning him to withdraw without causing further bloodshed. This will clearly be strongly opposed by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who can expect to gain little at the peace table. The Libyan leader is not famed for his moderation, but it is to be hoped that he will now realize that it is in his own best interests to respond in a reasonable way.

FAR AND FOREIGN CAPTIVITY

Overcrowded and ancient as they are, British prisons would rank respectably high in any Good Jails Guide compiled for the information of the cosmopolitan convict. At least in principle they accept the proposition that criminals are sent to prison as a punishment rather than for punishment, and that gratuitous harsh treatment is not an acceptable means of promoting a policy of deterrence. Prisons reflect the attitudes of the societies around them, and conditions that may appear rugged but humane to an Asian peasant may well seem intolerably rigorous to a western tourist who has been foolish enough to dabble in drugs. To the shared physical hardship is added the isolation of unfamiliarity with language and customs, and separation from friends and family. In some countries so little regard is paid to prisoners' rights that they are in constant danger of physical violence or untreated illness.

The simple individual remedy, of course, is not to get into trouble. But as international travel becomes easier the number of criminals who land themselves in prisons far from home is likely to increase. Such cases and the sympathy they sometimes arouse can become a significant irritant to good relations between countries, and

even a source of prejudice. The problem is complicated by the fact that sentences as well as conditions vary widely, according to how seriously different societies view each offence. This has been the chief stumbling-block to the development of the Council of Europe's convention on the transfer of prisoners to their own countries, which was signed yesterday by Britain.

The drugs trade provides some of the most difficult cases. A number of countries near the sources of the illicit drug trade have introduced heavy penalties at the urging of the western countries which are the main markets. They might not unreasonably accuse western countries of discrimination when they call for severity, while urging leniency for their own citizens. But equally it is difficult for a country where possession of soft drugs is a minor offence to make a citizen serve a very long sentence for it, imposed by a foreign court.

The only kind of agreement that is likely to be acceptable must allow for a good deal of give and take. The Council of Europe's convention is based on the principle that all three parties - the sentencing state, the prisoner's homeland and the prisoner himself - should agree

to each transfer. A homeland asking for repatriation will have to make clear in advance the conditions on which it is ready to take the prisoner (including what it means to do about remission, parole, and so on). In agreeing to the transfer the sentencing country will accept these terms. Difficulties would arise if one country considered that the prisoner had discharged his debt to society, while the other regarded him as liable to further penalties. There is room for friction here, but also for compromise.

For many prisoners, including some of the most harshly treated, the convention will be irrelevant - for those held for offences that are not regarded as offences at all at home, for instance and those held without trial, like Mr Kenneth Carmichael, held in Saudi Arabia for debt since 1981. The 16 countries which have signed do not include several where the problem is particularly acute, though the Home Secretary plans to seek bilateral agreements with others. But the convention is a step towards the creation of an international presumption that offenders abroad should not have the penalties imposed by the courts multiplied by the isolation and even hazards of captivity far from home.

FLIGHT PATH TO THE LAW COURTS

British Airways makes its first move in court today in its attempt to get a legal ruling against the Civil Aviation Authority. The authority has granted British Midland Airways a licence to run a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast in competition with British Airways' service. Midland is already challenging BA on the Edinburgh and Glasgow shuttles and has taken away a third of its market. Another airline, Dan-Air, has predatory eyes on BA's Heathrow-Manchester shuttle. The competition is threatening BA's domestic profitability. It wants to stop the rot - by stopping the competition.

The 1980 Civil Aviation Act requires the CAA when considering applications for licences to have regard "to the effect on existing air transport services provided by British airlines" of authorizing any new service. The airline argues that if the CAA

had had regard to the fact that more duplication of shuttle services would push BA's domestic services into deficit it could not reasonably have authorized it. But the courts usually take a lot of persuading to substitute their own view for that of a statutory body in these "duty-to-have-regard-to" cases. It is a long-shot law suit, a measure of BA's lack of confidence that if it took the normal route of appeal, which is to the Secretary of State, its profits would weigh more heavily with that umpire than the benefits to the customer of a spot of competition.

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, vigorously defends his recourse to law. "It is my job," he has told *The Times*, "to protect my business, and because it happens to be owned by a taxpayer that does not mean that I am not going to seek the protection the law offers me. As far as I am concerned I operate

British Airways as if it was in the private sector. While I try to be fair, I do not intend to go round being kind to my competitors."

British Airways almost is in the private sector. Lord King's task is to put the nationalized airline into suitable shape for the stockmarket. The irony of this latest twist in its fortunes cannot be lost on him. The virtue of privatization is that it imparts to the transformed corporation the stimulus and discipline of a fully competitive context. That is why it is done. In order to prepare itself for the salutary plunge (by inter alia preserving the profitability of its domestic operations) the airline goes to law to suppress competition, competition which is the object of the whole exercise. And its chairman justifies the move by invoking the ethos of the private sector. There is more to privatization than meets the eye.

proven record of disruption but because of sometimes erroneous or speculative information about their private or political activities. That personal information collected about an individual should be accurate, obtained lawfully, relevant to the purpose to which it was collected (e.g. job performance) and not disclosed in a matter incompatible with the principles set out in the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which the Government hopes to pass through its remaining stages in the forthcoming session of Parliament.

Unfortunately, the Bill in its present form will not safeguard people who lose jobs through

inaccurate and irrelevant information. Many of these records are held manually and therefore are not covered by the Bill. The Data Protection Registrar will be charged with enforcing the Act. However, with only 20 staff to deal with tens of thousands of computerized personal information systems he will be unable to be an effective monitor. Thus a Bill which purports to protect personal privacy will not prevent the increasing use of "monitoring" or "blacklisting" systems and increased intelligence gathering about political beliefs and opinions as we enter 1984. Yours faithfully, MARIE STAUNTON, Legal Officer, National Council for Civil Liberties, 21 Tabard Street, SE1, August 18.

Vetting job applicants

From Ms Marie Staunton
Sir, The National Council for Civil Liberties has for many years advised job applicants who have been victims of the "monitoring systems" referred to in your article (page 1, August 15). Highly sensitive personal information about political affiliation, honesty, sexual orientation and mental health is passed between employers and through central agencies.

The individual concerned does not have the right to check whether the information is accurate, and sometimes it is not. This information transfer can and does ensure that these persons are unable to obtain employment not because of any lack of ability to do the work or

Heart of dilemma for the Liberals

From Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West, (Liberal/Alliance)

Sir, Bernard Levin's article today (August 24) on the Liberals contains too many mischievous half-truths and guesses to answer individually without missing the heart of the genuine dilemma that has always faced political parties, and which is far more acute when social and economic conditions are as serious as they currently are.

This dilemma is simply stated: should a political party hide or fudge the truth as it sees it for the sake of electoral success, and then hope that the public will not notice or will not mind if it says one thing and does another? Or should it present its analysis and its programme, even if unpopular, and seek to persuade the electors of its validity?

Roy Hattersley, for instance, now appears to subscribe to the former view. He regularly intones that Labour "has a moral duty to win next time", i.e., any package that can remove Mrs Thatcher from office deserves Labour support. Bernard Levin, and a number of other commentators, also believe that electoral success is paramount and that any debate on strategy and priorities risks offending the tender susceptibilities of our gentle and delicate electors.

For every Bernard Levin enjoying a surreptitious tendency towards populism there are a thousand electors telling canvassers that politicians are all the same, saying one thing before an election and another after it. If Mr Levin has his way that electoral cynicism will be given an additional boost by Liberals and will further delay the day when this country grapples with the enormity of our present crises.

My view is that the public desires consistency, respects integrity, and resents being conned. The electorate rejected the left-Labour alternative at the election not because it was highly ideological but because it neither rang true nor appeared consistent. The question for a party as well as for the commentators and for the public, is the relevance of its ideology to its existence.

Those many thousands of people who join the Liberal Party and who give their skills, energy and resources without visible reward are by definition not individuals who are likely to sit and wait for a party "line" to be passed down from on high - however much respect and affection they have for David Steel. They tend to be interested in the formulation and promotion of ideas and there is an appropriate structure

for the debating and testing of such ideas.

No party in its right mind deliberately stresses those parts of its programme that are the least attractive, but equally no party with any integrity pretends that there are solutions to our current malaise that do not require sacrifice on the part of the public.

It is not a question of a handful of Liberal policies that Mr Levin so cheerfully caricatures. It is an approach to society; the kinds of values that are worth while and possible in the final years of this century; and the policies by which they can be achieved. These are the welcome and more legitimate targets for Mr Levin's incisive mind and blunt pen. Any lesser target is much too easy.

The difference between Bernard Levin and the working politician is that Mr Levin can write his commentary and then, if he so wishes, walk away from the problem. The MP or the councillor does not have that luxury; she or he has to find answers to the problems.

One takes Mr Levin's advice very seriously but I only wish that it was as thoroughly thought through as his writing on Wagner.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MEADOWCROFT,
House of Commons,
August 24.

From Lord Beaumont of Whitley
Sir, In writing about the Liberal Party Bernard Levin rightly identifies "a gap in the psyche of the left... a belief in itself by no means ignoble, that power is corrupting and that the left was put on earth to resist corruption and to purify."

But he, somewhat surprisingly, fails to distinguish between the Liberal Party and the rest of the left. Among the latter he rightly states that the belief gives rise to schizophrenia.

Liberals, on the other hand, have realised (to adapt Francis Bacon very slightly) that "power is like mud: not good except if it be spread". This is the foundation of democracy and needs to be taken further than we have taken it in this country.

It does indeed give rise in a highly centralised country to problems concerning means and ends, but it emphatically need not lead to the self-destruction to be seen in the rest of the left.

Yours faithfully,
TIM BEAUMONT,
(Past President, Liberal Party),
1 Hampstead Square, NW3,
August 24.

Defence review

From Colonel James Ferguson

Sir, Your leader, "Rethink on the Rhine" (August 17) does the subject less than justice. To discuss the defence of the central region of Allied Command Europe without a mention of US forces, either in place or as reinforcements, or of the Allied air forces makes the analysis somewhat incomplete.

Neither is justice done to the major contribution made by the Federal Republic to the defence of the region, namely 12 well-equipped divisions and, after mobilization, a Territorial Army of 500,000.

It is true, however, that there has been a reluctance by West Germany to flex the military and political muscles concomitant with her economic power and geographic location. But this has to be said that where this characteristic has been apparent it has been welcomed, not least by those who have painful memories of the exercise of German military power.

Dumping at sea

From Dr L. E. J. Roberts, FRS

Sir, Mr David McTaggart (August 16) criticises me for defending the position adopted by successive UK/British Governments on radioactive waste disposal in the deep ocean. In fact, this position is soundly based on technical and scientific observation and analysis.

It is not enough for Mr McTaggart to indulge in general criticisms of the "sinking holes" of the careful international assessments that have been made. Pessimistic assumptions were made whenever gaps in knowledge were recognised in the scientific work undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency before the very low limits allowed under the London Convention were agreed. It is a hard fact that none of the samples of fish or other marine organisms taken at the dump site has shown any increase in radioactivity above the increase found in any other area of the Atlantic.

The expert group convened by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD reported clearly in 1980 that no hazard would arise from these operations. The London Convention itself states that proposals for change should be supported by fresh

scientific evidence. No such evidence relevant to the North Atlantic was produced in support of the resolution in February, 1983, referred to by Mr McTaggart. A further meeting of the NEA was held in May, after the London Convention meeting, to examine the scientific evidence relating to the use of this site; this again concluded that the objections to its use were without foundation.

With respect, Sir, a detailed scientific controversy cannot be conducted satisfactorily in the correspondence columns of *The Times*.

The international experts who have taken part in these assessments have published their methods and arguments in full. Mr McTaggart should equally publish his criticisms in detail so that they can be evaluated, point by point.

We would of course reconsider our policy if fresh evidence pointed to significant hazard arising from these disposal operations; no such evidence has emerged.

Yours faithfully,
L. E. J. ROBERTS, Chairman,
Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive,
AERE Harwell,
Oxfordshire.

Islington finances

From the Deputy Leader of Islington Council

Sir, Lord Harris of Greenwich's attack on Islington Council (feature, August 9) contained a number of glaring errors of fact concerning its support for the *Islington News* co-operative. The co-operative is being given help by the council as a result of a detailed feasibility study that suggested the co-operative would be a sound commercial venture and would create 12 jobs. The *Islington News* will not be a "council newspaper" but an independent publication that will be free to criticise the council and its policies.

Mr George Cunningham, former SDP MP for Islington South and Finsbury, wrote on March 25 to Mr B. H. Skinner, the district auditor for the metropolitan district, asking him to enquire into the *Islington News* co-operative, with special reference to his alleged claim that the local Labour Party had a

representative on the editorial board. Mr Skinner replied on June 21 and told Mr Cunningham that, on the contrary, financial assistance to the co-operative would be made subject to a number of conditions, including one that there would be no political party having representation on the editorial and advisory board of the *Islington News*.

Mr Skinner also quoted a resolution of the council's Employment (Grants and Financial Assistance) Subcommittee of April 18 to the effect that "the subcommittee will not consider applications for financial assistance from organisations with party political affiliations and the Employment and Development Committee be requested to concur with this decision". This is now the policy of the council.

Lord Harris is misinformed about the nature of the grants to the co-operative. The council is giving a grant of £17,000 over the two years towards the cost of premises, which

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Universities unable to pull full weight

From Professor J. M. Thomas, FRS

Sir, The authors of the Merrison report on the support of university scientific research, June, 1982, estimated that two thirds of the nation's fundamental research is carried out in the universities. This is a far bigger proportion than in any other country. Yet the amount of money allocated for it is meagre compared to the scale, success and wealth-creating influence of that work.

In 1978-79 the total British university equipment grant was estimated (Merrison report, p23) as £27m, which is less than the annual sums allocated for the same purpose by single, major US scientific companies. It is to be compared with the total UK expenditure on research and development for 1978 of £3,500m, of which the Government provided about half, and with the £40m that Hoechst, the West German pharmaceutical company, has just invested in a new research department in the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In the light of this situation it is ludicrous to claim, as did your leader (August 12) that the dual-support system for university research is breaking down because the universities are "skimping on research". The money is simply not there for the dual-support system to function properly.

In 1974-75 Government expenditure on equipment to the universities was savagely cut. Although some improvement has occurred since, the effects of that cut are still felt; by 1980-81 it had led to an

accumulated deficit on the equipment grant of about £220m. The universities do not have it within their power properly to replace obsolete equipment; still less are they in a position, without outside aid, vigorously to pursue important new developments.

For example, a team of scientists in this university has recently explored a new magnetic resonance technique that is likely to serve several branches of physical science. The equipment needed to exploit it and train new graduates in its use costs £200,000, more than the university can afford to allocate to a single group. It will not be possible, therefore, to develop this work unless the Science and Engineering Research Council provides the bulk of the equipment.

Equipment costs of this magnitude are very common; they are an essential ingredient of modern scientific activity, from anatomy to zoology. Many of these costs should not be met by the SERC, the Government should possess adequate resources to support work and replace facilities that they themselves deem important. It is in the nation's interest that more funds are made available for properly equipping our universities. That was one of the recommendations of the Merrison report.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. THOMAS,
Department of Physical Chemistry,
University of Cambridge,
Lensfield Road,
Cambridge,
August 18.

CDC in Philippines

From the Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation

Sir, CDC's primary aim is to take part in those projects which will be the most effective in raising the standards of living in the underdeveloped parts of the world. Mindanao is very undeveloped and a number of its inhabitants near the starvation line. The oil palm project to which we are committed to lending money will make a significant contribution to the prosperity of that part of Mindanao in which it is situated.

We have taken every conceivable measure to ensure that human rights are respected as far as the workers on the project are concerned. The Lost Command no longer has any role in the security of the estate. We have our own man resident in the area who is monitoring conditions at the project.

The opportunity to get a regular

job with a decent wage has more than the material benefit for those employed. The fact that there is benefit to the country as a whole in the productive use of land which has been largely uncultivated must be in the long-term interests of the Philippines people.

CDC's reputation has been built upon development projects in the agricultural sector which have benefited both the people individually and the economies of the countries in which we operate - and also, incidentally, the British taxpayer.

We have been operating profitably for more than 20 years. Letters such as Tom Clarke's (August 24) do not help either the people of Mindanao or the reputation of CDC. Yours faithfully,
KINDERLEY, Chairman,
Commonwealth Development Corporation,
33 Hill Street, W1,
August 24.

Body and mind

From Mr Anthony Young

Sir, Your unnecessarily strident editorial, "Physician heal thyself" (August 10) does science an injustice by blaming the failure of modern "orthodox" medicine on the "scientific approach". It is the obsession with the method and the technology with subsequent loss of contact with the patient at a personal level that is at fault, not the "scientific approach" itself.

A great harm will be done if, in our haste to espouse the currently unorthodox, we lose sight of the fundamental scientific principle that the methods and results of any form of therapy must be carefully scrutinized to see if they are effective. Without these checks charlatans will be the ones that benefit, not the patients.

Doctors are cautious of the "unorthodox" because they like first to see proper evidence that these treatments help patients - as I believe many of them do. Surely that caution should be encouraged not denied.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY YOUNG,
The Consulting Rooms,
York House,
199 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1,
August 11.

Athletic hybrid

From Mr P. R. M. Burrows

Sir, Since it looks like a word derived properly from the Greek, "tetraathlon" (letter, August 23) must be, I suppose, marginally less objectionable than the obviously hybrid "quadathlon" used in your report.

Both words are, however, falsely derived from "marathon" in much the same way as that in which my own pet hate "triphobious" is derived from "amphibious".

Why not use the established and acceptable word "tetraathlon" instead of either?

Yours faithfully,
P. R. M. BURROWS,
Malt House,
Kenning,
Kent,
August 23.

Pieces of silver?

From Mr John George Bull

Sir, The current vogue for offering large financial rewards for information leading to a prosecution appears to be welcomed by the police, particularly in relation to the search for the Brighton child molester.

One wonders if the implications have been fully appreciated. There is a strong possibility that someone who should have given information to the police last week as a public duty will receive a huge reward for his or her procrastination.

Furthermore, in future incidents of this type there will be a temptation for vital witnesses to withhold information until they feel the accumulating bait has reached its peak.

Yours faithfully,
J. BULL,
Flat 20a East,
High Street,
Keynsham,
Bristol, Avon.

Mermaid Theatre sale

From Mr Nicholas Reynolds

Sir, The announcement on your front page (August 12), of the proposed sale of the Mermaid Theatre is distressing.

More than 15 years ago members of staff and I attempted to set up a "Theatre Club" in the City of London School, minutes down the road from Puddle Dock. This was no easy task in a school whose catchment area was the entire commuter belt and a reluctance to stay on after hours to enjoy the opportunities of London's theatres was marked.

Bernard Miles gave us all possible help and encouragement. At the Mermaid we learnt what the art of the theatre really might be. We had high hopes of increasing cooperation between our exciting theatrical neighbour and the City's school.

Today, the move of the school to the muddy hole of immediately adjoining Puddle Dock has still not been effected; and the Mermaid is to be sold. How do the City Fathers expect to educate their sons?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS REYNOLDS,
2 Danube Street,
Edinburgh.

Wind of class

From Sir Ronald Preston

Sir, In his amusing article on "Class warfare on the open road" today (August 2), in which he turns a psychoanalytical eye on the names of cars, your Correspondent finds himself plainly snuffed by the origin of the name "Passat". To him it is a "total mystery" to which he adds the gratuitous suggestion that perhaps it is the name "of an expensive resort in the Atlas Mountains known only to the rich Germans".

A glance at a German-English dictionary would have quickly dispelled the mystery for it gives *Passat* as the word in German for "trade wind", a name which could well have been included in the "male macho" list of car names. Yours faithfully,
RONALD PRESTON,
Beeston Hall,
Beeston St Lawrence, Norwich,
Norfolk.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 25. The Queen was represented by Colonel William Brann (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for County Down) at the funeral of Sir Francis Evans (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Buenos Aires) which was held in St Patrick's Church, Drumboe, Northern Ireland, this morning.

The Duke of Gloucester is 39 today. A memorial service for Sir George Lewis, who died in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday, November 3, at noon.

Birthdays today
Mr Kenneth Barnes, 61; Mr Frank J. O'Connell, 70; Major General N. L. O'Connell, 70; Mr Christopher Isherwood, 70; Sir Ian MacGregor, 61; Professor Brian Macrae, 70; Sir Hugh Parry, 70; Mr Malcolm Pyrah, 70; Miss Alison Steadman, 37; Sir Gerald Thorne, 70; General Sir Harry Tuzo, 66; the Right Rev. M. P. Wood, 67.

Acup and Lawtenstall Grammar School
Richardson Term begins on August 1. Term ends on December 21. The seventeenth anniversary meeting will be held on September 10-11. The main musical production, *Robert and Elizabeth* with Andrew Horsfall and Janet Lancaster in the leading roles, will be presented from November 3 to 7. Heads of school are Darren Bentley and Lesley Jell.

Marriage
Mr H. B. Digby and Mrs S. R. McLean. The marriage took place in London yesterday between Mr Henry Digby, son of the late Hon Robert and Mrs Digby, and Mrs Rosalie McLean, daughter of Major and Mrs Richard Aukin-Turner, of Worlington, Suffolk.

Church news
Appointments
The Rev C. B. Arden, Vicar of St Andrew's, London, will be in the pulpit at the service of St Andrew's, London, on Sunday, September 4. The Rev J. B. Arden, Vicar of St Andrew's, London, will be in the pulpit at the service of St Andrew's, London, on Sunday, September 4. The Rev J. B. Arden, Vicar of St Andrew's, London, will be in the pulpit at the service of St Andrew's, London, on Sunday, September 4.

Latest wills
Actress leaves £65,345
Daphne Heard, whose real name was Mrs Della Barnes, of Clifton, Bristol, the actress who played "Mrs Poo" in the BBC television series *The Man in the Moon*, left estate valued at £65,345 net.

Mrs Ethel Margery Turner, of Carrick Hill Crescent, Sheffield, has left estate at £522,339 net. After other debts, she left the residue to be divided between the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Methodist Homes for the Aged and the Artists and the Theatrical Council.

Miss Emily Emma, of Fitzjames Avenue, Kensington, West London, left estate valued at £117,917 net. Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Cowie, Mrs Flora Margaret Valda, of Earley, Berkshire, £463,781; Dale, Mrs Susan Mary, of Bridge, North Shropshire, £246,200; Doyle, Mr Thomas Francis, of Glenageary, Co. Cork, company director, estate in England, Wales and Irish Republic, £241,207; Haddon, Mrs Catherine Margaret, of Sibberth, Leicestershire, £268,098; Hagger, Mr Cyril, of Melbourne, Cambridgeshire, £203,118; Hendon, Miss Edith Monica, of Cleve, near the Sea, Norfolk, £232,523; Knight, Mr John Beckett, of Bickley, Kent, £265,521; Sammon, Mrs Joyce, of Bevelly, North Yorkshire, £219,380; Florence, of Fownhope, Hereford and Worcester, £164,450; Taylor, Mr Sydney, university lecturer of Reading, Berkshire, £209,383; Thomas, Mrs Edith Annie, of Gower, West Glam., £363,726.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. C. Clark and Miss V. J. Charters. The engagement is announced between Peter Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs F. G. Clark, of Streatham, London, and Virginia, younger daughter of the late Hugo Charters, and of Mrs Charters, of The Elms, Subwirth, Selby, Yorkshire.

Mr J. N. Hensley and Miss N. L. Walter. The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs H. N. Hensley of Langham, Rutland, and Nicole, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Walter, of Zurich, Switzerland.

Mr C. Joseph and Miss M. Hammond. The marriage will take place shortly in Greece between Costas Joseph and Minnie Hammond.

Mr R. P. Jones, R.E.C. and Miss P. M. Bruce-Kerr. The engagement is announced between Richard Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. J. Jones, of Hanley, Worcester, and Philippa Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P. C. Bruce-Kerr, of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Mr C. J. Maxwell and Miss E. Davies. The engagement is announced between Christopher James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A. C. Maxwell, of Peppery Cottage, Burwood, Oakham, Rutland, and Elaine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Davies, of Stoneleigh, Walsingham, Norfolk.

Captain W. A. Shuttleworth and Mrs M. O. Owen. The engagement is announced between William Ashby Shuttleworth, 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own), son of the late Lieutenant Commander John Ashby Shuttleworth, D.L., R.N., and of Mrs Shuttleworth, of North Hill, Hibernia, Derbyshire, and Belinda Mary, daughter of Mr John M. Gray, C.B.E., and Mrs Gray, of Blairlodge, Dundrum, Co. Down.

Hervey and Whitcombe. Hervey, Whitcombe and Whitcombe, 100, Pall Mall, London, will be in the pulpit at the service of St Andrew's, London, on Sunday, September 4. The Rev J. B. Arden, Vicar of St Andrew's, London, will be in the pulpit at the service of St Andrew's, London, on Sunday, September 4.

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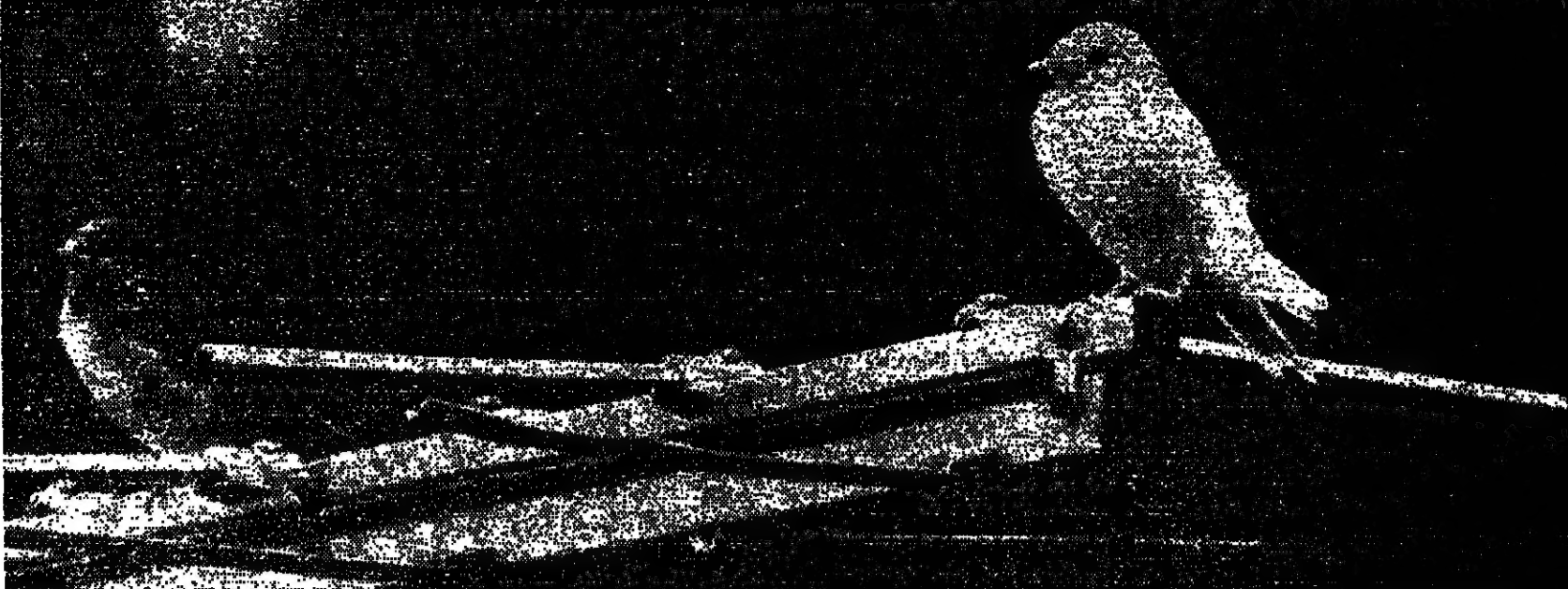
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Rare bird: A young white swallow in a barn at a farm near Ringwood, Hampshire. A pure albino is sufficiently uncommon to interest ornithologists. The Royal Society for Protection of Birds says that there are no accurate statistics, but on average, no more than one sighting a year is reported. Birds with whole or part white plumage tend to be mobbed by their fellows and are conspicuous targets for birds of prey.

Tory clones claim by teachers

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent
The Conservative Party has been caught trying to impose an education policy on its MPs, and the MPs are exposed as "clones", in a survey published today by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

These glimpses into the party's tactics at election time result from a gaffe by Mr Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham. He replied to the association's election questionnaire by sending a photocopied sheet on which he had written: "I agree with these answers."

The sheet was headed, "General Election 1983: Questions of Policy 251; Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association Questionnaire", and bore the imprint, "Printed and Published by Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square". It gave Conservative candidates a text for formulating their answers.

The association now understands why 12 other MPs, including Sir Michael Havers and Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, gave exactly the same replies.

"Thirteen MPs were happy to seem to be giving personal replies to a questionnaire sent to them by local electors, when in reality they were parroting answers drafted by an anonymous 'Smith Square scribe', said Mr Peter Smith, the association's deputy general secretary.

Mr Smith writes in the association's magazine *Report*, published today: "How do constituents get to know MPs views as individual parliamentarians representing the people who returned them to Westminster? The answer, in most cases, has to be with great difficulty, if at all."

Identical questionnaires were sent to all candidates. There were 81 replies. None was received from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, or Mr Bob Dunn, the minister in charge of schools.

More cash and students for polytechnics

Six polytechnics will be rewarded with more money and extra students at the start of the 1984 academic year but three, the City of London Polytechnic, the Central London Polytechnic and Oxford, will lose out badly.

Details, which are being sent to colleges and local authorities today, are contained in today's *Times Higher Education Supplement*. It says the lucky six polytechnics are Bristol, Teesside, Plymouth, Preston, Leicester and North Staffordshire.

The provisional allocation to institutions has been worked out by the national advisory body for local authority higher education and is contained in a confidential note from the Department of Education and Science. It shows that the newer polytechnics are being treated more favourably than the more mature.

Artifacts, instead of investing their money. Forgers are obviously tempted only when the antique value of a group of objects is considerably higher than the craftsman's costs in producing a replica. Such circumstances have now been reached with scientific instruments, particularly the astrolabe.

Concern over the authenticity of scientific instruments is a recent development, whereas fakes have been produced in the fine art world since Roman times.

Dr Turner says there is a strong tendency among those concerned with scientific instruments to look at them as at all imitations and to condemn them. But he argues that reproductions are useful for educational purposes.

The rigorous scrutiny that has now to be made includes systematic investigations of

Academics concerned by new technology research

By Paul Flather of The Times Higher Education Supplement

The Government is planning to spend more than £100,000 supporting a series of academic research projects to find ways of encouraging the acceptance of new technology.

The initiative has the personal backing of the Prime Minister, and is one of 17 international programmes following the 1982 economic summit at Versailles.

But some academics fear that the projects, to be paid for by the Department of Trade and Industry, could amount to an exercise in opinion management.

The principal objectives of the programme, as laid down by the department, is to formulate lessons for industry and government "on how to secure greater acceptance of new technologies by developing their positive aspects, and minimizing their negative aspects, from an enhanced understanding of the cultural and organizational

determinants of public attitudes. Acceptance of new technologies at the workplace would be the main, but not the sole focus of the work."

The programme comes after publication in March of a working group report on technology, growth and employment, which suggested that the roots of opposition to new technologies sometimes go beyond technical considerations.

Applications have already been invited from selected research groups in the field for four projects: information technology and the organization; new communications technology and the consumer; comparative national assessments; and historical studies of the problem.

The possible political motivation behind the programme is worrying academics. Mr Alan Day, lecturer in industrial sociology at Oxford University,

found it "very disturbing, similar to a Saatchi and Saatchi exercise".

He said: "It seems like an invitation to academics to do a bit of opinion management and there is enough of that around already. Many academics are going to feel uneasy and I am not sure what it will do for the credibility of the SSRC."

Dr Koderick Martin, a sociology lecturer and a fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, said the work would be valuable. "But a research council should be concerned with minimizing error, not minimizing negative aspects," he said.

Dr Cyril Smith, the SSRC secretary, said the contract, only the second substantial contract given to the council by Whitehall, was an important test for the social sciences. He said he was satisfied there was reasonable flexibility in the programme to allow for academic interpretation.

Spectacular cabinet goes on sale

A previously lost cabinet and four pieces of bedroom furniture by the Scottish modern design pioneer, Charles Mackintosh, have been found in Canada and are to be auctioned. They are expected to make more than £130,000.

The furniture had been listed as "whereabouts unknown" after being sold in the 1930s when Mackintosh pieces fetched only a few pounds each.

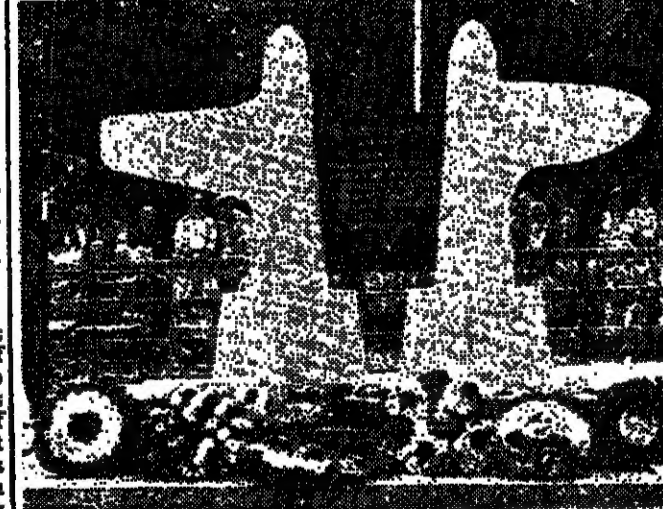
When the furniture came to light in Canada, the pieces had been stripped and partly dismantled. After restoration, they will be sold by Sotheby's in Monte Carlo on October 5.

The cabinet is expected to be the most expensive item at about £70,000. It is one of two designed and made in 1902 for a Mrs Rowat, and has a distinctive glass motif of a woman holding a rose set into each of the doors. Its pair is in a private collection.

Sotheby's say it is "perhaps the most important piece of Mackintosh's furniture likely to appear on the market". It has been described in a catalogue of his work as one of the most "spectacular designs" of his period and distinguished by "a jewel-like preciousness rarely encountered again in his furniture".

A similar pair of cabinets made by Mackintosh for his home in the collection of Glasgow University, which established the record for Mackintosh's work when it bought a desk at Sotheby's Belgrave for £80,000 in 1979.

The other items coming up for sale are a bed, a washstand, a chest and a dressing mirror, were designed in 1904 for the "White Bedroom" of Miss Cranston, who ran tea rooms in Argyll Street, Glasgow.



Duke's memorial visit

The Duke of Gloucester unveiled a memorial to Second World War airmen at King's Cliffe airfield, near Peterborough, yesterday.

The Duke met Air Vice-Marshal "Johnny" Johnson, the wartime air ace (top), Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, and more than three hundred Royal Air Force veterans were present at the unveiling.

The memorial (above) is to those who served and died in the American, New Zealand, Rhodesian, Belgian and British Squadrons stationed at King's Cliffe during the war.

King's Cliffe was the last airfield at which Glenn Miller performed with his band before he died.

Photographs: Harry Kerr

GLC threatens court fight

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

The Greater London Council is again preparing to go to court if Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, refuses to allow the council to amend the capital's development plan.

The chairman of the council's planning committee, Mr George Nicholson yesterday accused Mr Jenkin of "acting like a dictator" in trying to prevent the council from making changes to its planning blueprint.

Mr Nicholson said that the minister was acting outside his legal jurisdiction. He said Mr Jenkin had 21 days to revise his decision before the council would challenge it in the courts.

The council is anxious to modernise the Greater London development plan, which was drawn up in the late 1960s, because it has remained unaltered for almost a decade.

Since the plan was produced, London has seen a large number of people and industries leave while there has been an multiplication of office buildings, and proposed development, around the City and the South Bank.

Mr Nicholson said that the Council had the support of 30 of the 33 London Boroughs for the changes. The draft amendments, Mr Nicholson said, were made with the backing and knowledge of the Department of the Environment.

Sir Richard Butler, the NFU president, has written to the minister, Mr Michael Jopling, saying that the European Commission's proposals on the adaptation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are "of critical importance to British agriculture", but are unacceptable as they stand.

He wrote that the three United Kingdom farmers' unions accepted the need for the policy to be managed in a cost-effective way and were prepared to see some changes, "but not at the expense of British agriculture".

"If there are to be cuts in CAP expenditure, then the burden of those cuts must be shared equitably, by consumers, food processors, and third country suppliers, as well as farmers," he said.

"Whatever adaptations have to be made to the CAP, it is essential, given the inherent

instability of agricultural markets, that effective farm support systems are maintained."

Sir Richard said that the resources necessary to give the EEC the financial impetus sought by heads of government at their recent Summit meeting could not be found simply by pruning the CAP.

"For this, it will be essential to increase the community's own resources. It would be a tragedy if the reduction in CAP expenditure were merely to result in a further weakening of the EEC," he said.

OBITUARY MR J. CLEVELAND BELLE

Influence on textile design

Mr James Cleveland Belle, widely regarded in the British fashion and textile industries as the most potent, creative and innovative force of the early post-war years, died on August 21. He was the first director of the first design centre set up in the United Kingdom: the Cotton Board's Colour Design and Style Centre in Manchester in 1940.

A man of wide cultural interests - in the fine arts, in opera, in ballet, and above all in the sphere of international fashion - "Jimmy" Belle's selection generated as much controversy within the textile industry as did the formation of the Design Centre itself. He provoked a sharp reaction from the established Manchester textile design studios with an exhibition of "Designs for Textiles by Fine Artists" - the artists being of the calibre of Graham Sutherland, Henry Moore, Hans Tisdall and John Farthing.

He was also closely associated with the counter Norman Hartnell in the formation of a group which later became the Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers: Molynoux, Digby Morton, Bianca Mosca, Peter Russell, Victor Stiebel of Jacquard, Worth, and later Hardy Amies. At a time when the British textile and fashion industries were constrained by wartime restrictions, this initiative encouraged the British development of a "sport only" style which formed the basis of the Society's first collection to be shown in South America in 1941.

When the utility scheme was introduced, Belle played a distinctive background role in the encouragement of high design standards in textiles and the use by wholesale fashion houses of couture talent to style their utility ranges on sale to the public.

In helping to stimulate the textile and fashion content of the "British Can Make It" exhibition in 1946, Belle's influence on the commercial products of the textile industry in the 1940s and 1950s was outstanding; never more so than in his role as adviser to Horrocks Fashions, of which he later became a director. Few who lived through this period will not remember the translation of the washable cotton dress to the status of high fashion.

His especially commissioned textile designs ranged from a unique group of inter-related prints by Alastair Morton, the distinguished weaver, to those of talented graduates of the recently re-formed Royal College of Art. The fact that Horrocks' trio of talented fashion designers who made up this fabric participated in the selection of the designs on paper before they were produced on cloth was an innovation, in a fashion house, of the first magnitude.

Belle's talent for friendship was warm and wide. He relinquished the directorship of the Centre in 1950 to concentrate on his many London commitments, but there and elsewhere people could continue to call on his wisdom, advice and active support.

The Cotton Board played a unique role from 1940 to the late 1960s. It devised many different techniques for drawing attention to the excellence at all levels of design, production, presentation and publicity, setting standards which others have made common currency.

Belle was an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Industrial Artists, and was awarded the bi-centenary medal of the Royal Society of Arts in 1960 for promoting art and design in British industry.

MR SCOTT NEARING

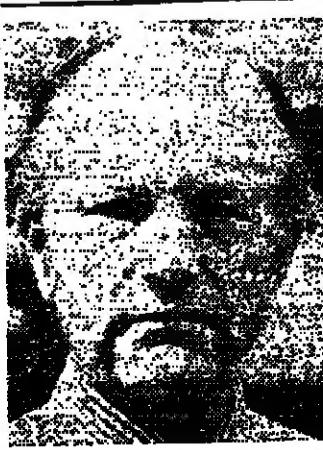
Mr Scott Nearing, who died on August 24 at his farm in Harborside, Maine, aged 100, was an individualist in the American style. He was well known as a radical and a pacifist in the early part of this century, and in recent years acquired a new following through his advocacy of vegetarianism and organic farming.

He was born into a well-to-do family in Morris Run, Pennsylvania, and after receiving a doctorate in economics from the University of Pennsylvania began an academic career. For some years he was Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

He was outspokenly critical of capitalism and imperialism, including what he called the "dollar diplomacy" of the United States; and at one point was charged with sedition after publishing an anti-war book, *The Great Madness*, though he was eventually acquitted. He joined the Socialist Party, and later the Communist Party, but was expelled from the latter for refusing to alter the manuscript of a book on imperialism.

In 1932 he decided to abandon urban living and moved first to Vermont, and later to Maine. He and his wife, both vegetarians, took up organic farming; and in the 1960s they came to be much in demand as speakers at meetings of young people looking for a new, simpler life-style.

Two of his better known books were *Living the Good Life*, written with his wife in 1954, and his autobiography, *The Making of a Radical*, published in 1972.



Sir Richard Butler: changes "unacceptable".

مركز الأمل

THE TIMES 1000 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

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Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

MARKET REPORT

Fraser shares jump 16p

Shares in Fraser jumped 16p yesterday to 244p on persistent buying from about five main sources. One market trader was suggesting that Mr Jack Haywood, the Bahamas millionaire, had picked up a further 250,000 Fraser shares taking his total to 2.5 million. At that level his stake is worth more than £6m.

A substantial drop in business volume before the bank holiday weekend gave stock market traders the breathing space needed to steady prices after the sharp fall on Tuesday and Wednesday. Although the slight increases against the leaders was technical there was little genuine investment demand.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Money Market Rates

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Other Markets

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Dollar Spot Rates

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Euro \$ Deposits

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Gold

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

RECENT ISSUES

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Shipping

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Mines

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Oil

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Insurance

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Investment Trusts

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Property

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Rubber

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Tea

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Miscellaneous

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Unlisted Securities

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Banking

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Chemicals

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Food

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Textiles

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Metals

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Automotive

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Electronics

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Pharmaceuticals

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Telecommunications

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Media

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Energy

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Real Estate

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company, 1982 Sales, 1983 Sales

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES
City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EJ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 717.4 up 0.8
FT 100 Index 79.71 up 0.8
FT All Share 456.14 up 1.82
Birmingham 19.701
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 100 up 0.73
New York: Dow Jones
Average (latest) 1181.71
down 2.54
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 8143.07 down 4.27
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Index 981.91 down 0.27
Amsterdam 145.8 down 2.9
Sydney: AO Index 697.7
down 10.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 933.30 down 3.20
Brussels: General Index
133.45 down 0.42
Paris: CAC Index 137.7 up
0.3
Zurich: SKA General Index
285.2 down 0.5

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5080 down 1.1
cents
Index 84.7 down 0.9
DM 3.9750
FF 11.9750
Yen 368.50
Dollar
Index 127.6 up 0.1
DM 2.8985

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.5030
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.570857
SDR 0.692933

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rates 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9% 9%
3 month interbank 9% 9%
Euro currency rates:
3 month dollar 9% 10
3 month DM 5% 5%
3 month FF 15% 14%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 103%
103%
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period July 6 to August
2, 1983 inclusive: 9.988 per
cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$422.50 pm \$423.25
close \$423.50 \$280-280.75
unchanged
New York latest: \$423.25
Krugerrand (per coin):
\$436-437.50 (\$289-290)
Sovereigns (new):
\$99.75-100.75 (\$66-66.75)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: Marlin Black, L. M.
Ericsson, Exeter Building and
Construction, Investment Trust
of Guernsey, Miss World
Group, Scottish Northern In-
vest, Wagon Finance, Ward
Holdings.
Finals: Highgate & Job,
Raybeck.
Economic statistics: None
announced.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Davenport Knitwear, Allen
House, Newark Street, Liver-
pool (11.30)
Lennon Group, Lord Daresbury
Hotel, Daresbury, Warrington,
Cheshire (noon) Retapain,
Cumberland Road, Off Honey-
pot Lane, NW9 (11.30)
Sagomans Group, 185 St
Vincent Street, Glasgow
(12.00)

Trade figures hit sterling

Sterling was under sporadic pressure in the foreign exchange markets yesterday because of the poor July trade figures and recent gloomy forecasts for the economy.
Market trading was thin as sterling fell 1.1 cents against the dollar and closed at \$1.5080. Against the German mark, the pound fell below DM4, closing 3.5 pence lower on the day at DM3.9750, and it lost 10 centimes against the French franc to FF11.9750.
The pound's trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies ended the day 0.9 lower at 84.7.
The dollar was on the sidelines after its volatile movements of recent weeks but ended fractionally higher against the mark at DM2.6365 - up 15 points.

● **Luxembourg** International finance is raising a Dm75m (£19m), seven-year Eurobond with a yield of 9 per cent, market sources have reported. The bond is priced at par.

Battle for games manufacturer is not over, says BPCC chief

Waddington beats off Maxwell as institutions switch allegiance

By Jonathan Clark

An about-turn by three institutional shareholders yesterday snatched an expected victory for Mr Robert Maxwell in his battle for control of John Waddington, the Monopoly games manufacturer.

The three institutions withdrew their acceptances of the £18m bid from Mr Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation at the eleventh hour. News of the about-turn came as Mr Maxwell was ready to declare that he had received more than 90 per cent acceptances and the bid was therefore unconditional.

The three institutions withdrew their acceptances of the £18m bid from Mr Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation at the eleventh hour. News of the about-turn came as Mr Maxwell was ready to declare that he had received more than 90 per cent acceptances and the bid was therefore unconditional.

Waddington board from holders of 46.2 per cent makes it impossible for Mr Maxwell to declare his offer unconditional.

The most significant change of heart came when the Norwich Union insurance group, which has 4.4 per cent stake, responded to a direct appeal from the Waddington chairman, Mr Victor Watson, and managing director Mr David Perry.

The other about-turns came from the Scottish Amicable life insurance company, which has about 0.9 per cent of the shares, and a smaller holder with 0.2 per cent.

Scottish Amicable said last night that it had previously accepted the cash alternative but withdrew and "sold at a higher price to parties presum-

ably friendly to the Waddington camp."

Later Mr Maxwell said: "The battle is not over yet - people can come and go from their side as well, you know."

He intends to extend his share offer to those who have not yet accepted it. No decision on the period has been taken but the offer cannot be extended beyond two weeks under takeover rules.

The Norwich Union had accepted the BPCC share offer but the Scottish Amicable had opted for the cash alternative which closed last week and cannot be re-opened. Shareholders who accept a takeover bid can withdraw before it is declared unconditional.

Mr Maxwell said: "I regret the withdrawal of acceptances which presumably is largely due to people who accepted the cash offer of 245.6p which they would receive in several weeks time if the offer goes unconditional. By withdrawing they can get a higher price in the market. It is possible that purchasers in the market will accept the BPCC offer."

But Kleinwort Benson, Waddington's advisers, said that it was merely a change of allegiance after a re-appraisal by the shareholders of the company's prospects.

Mr Maxwell added: "I have had several Waddington's shareholders complain that they had up to eight telephone calls from the company urging them

not calling them in default. Assume also that the IMF board approves a new programme for Brazil and the Brazilian Congress passes the new tough measures demanded. These are big assumptions but if it works out that way Brazil should then be able to repay the BIS with loans released by the IMF."

Then, however, the real problems start. How to satisfy Brazil's external funding needs of about £2.6bn for the rest of this year and £3.9bn next year? Commercial bankers are adamant that they cannot fork out the whole £6.5bn and the popular assumption is that governments/official agencies will chip in at least £1.9bn. Quite who these governments/official agencies are remains a mystery.

Crippling Debts
As for the commercial banks, those with large exposures to Brazil may feel there is no alternative to pumping in large sums. But will they be able to persuade their smaller brethren to contribute to what could be one of the biggest syndicated loans ever, for a country in Brazil's position? Even the bullying of the IMF and central banks may not be sufficient.

Secret meeting
The drawings are tied to release of IMF money, but there will be no more of this until late September or October, after the IMF board has formally approved a new programme for Brazil.

The commercial banks could easily waive this condition. Professor Neto met M Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the IMF, secretly in Paris this week. A nod from him, indicating that the IMF is happy, would probably be enough. Many bankers are expecting a request along these lines from the advisory group of banks.

By the end of the month Brazil will also be about £530m overdue on repayments to the Bank for International Settlements. Assume the BIS sticks to its present policy of not rolling over the loans but

Rescue deal for Capper-Neill

By Michael Priest

An Arab construction company and British banks have organized a major capital reconstruction of Capper-Neill, a leading manufacturer of process plant, to save the company from an unexpected threat of bankruptcy. But most of the Capper-Neill board, including Mr William Capper, the chairman, will leave the company.

Capper-Neill, of St Helens, discussed yesterday that for the year to the end of March it had made a pre-tax loss of £3.1m after making a pre-tax profit of £2.7m last year.

The company has also had to make extraordinary debts of £20.8m. It lost £700,000 in the first half. The shares fell 1p to 16 1/2p, which notionally capitalizes the company at £15m.

The rescue has been organized by Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, which was called in last February after it became clear that Capper-Neill's financial position had deteriorated.

At the end of March share-



Capper resigns with most of his board

holders' funds stood at just £6m, including a property revaluation of £3.7m, while borrowings were £27.4m. Turnover fell from £108 to £83.4m.

Under the reconstruction, Consolidated Contractors, (CCC) a company of Lebanese origin based in London, will pay £4.3m to buy 41.3m new shares in Capper-Neill at par. This will give them a 58.9 per cent share in Capper.

CCC will also have an option for 10 years to buy another 8.7m shares at par, and has agreed to make a £1.87m secured loan to Capper-Neill, bringing its total injection to £6m.

The balance sheet will also be strengthened by the banks converting £7m of the existing overdraft into 7m redeemable preference shares of £1 each. These will not carry a dividend for the first two years but will have coupons of 8 per cent in the third and fourth years and 10 per cent in later years.

The banks have undertaken to convert £14m of the overdraft into a £14m secured loan over 10 years.

Capper-Neill has big construction interests in the Middle East and it is understood that disagreements over the company's title to contracts and to the amount from these contracts led to some of the extraordinary debts.

CCC's major construction firm in the Middle East, and has won contracts in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

BSR back in profit as debts decline

By Andrew Cornelius

BSR International, the audio, electronic and kitchenware group, is back in profit at the interim stage after its make-or-buy capital reconstruction this year.

Mr Bill Wylie, chairman, who masterminded the £20m cash call which made the refinancing possible, yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £6.2m for the six months ending June 30, against losses of £1.8m at the same stage last year and losses of £1.5m for 1982.

Mr Wylie said at BSR's new corporate headquarters in Hongkong that he is looking for a further significant improvement in profits during the second half of the year. An indication of the board's confidence in progress is the promise to recommend payment of a final dividend of at least 1.5p this year.

The refinancing helped cut short-term debts from £42m at

the end of December, 1982, to £2.8m today. Total group debt has fallen from £107m after the rights issue in March.

The interim results include the £1m costs associated with the closure of a loss making Capetronics electronics factory in the US, and losses of £800,000 from BSR's British operations, which employ 4,000 people in the West Midlands.

The British audio and kitchenware businesses should be trading in the black by the end of the year.

An important part of the group's strategy in Britain is to switch production to new growth areas.

Mr Wylie said that there will be further rationalization and divestment of activities within the group, but no redundancies are planned in Britain.

BSR's shares rose by 10p to 178p.

Blue Circle dividend disappoints market

By Jeremy Warner

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, yesterday reported a small fall in pre-tax profits for the first half of this year.

But Mr Gordon Marshall, deputy managing director, expects better results for the remainder of the year in Britain.

Overseas, the group should benefit from its recent North American acquisition while Latin American countries are beginning to show marginal improvements after the rock bottom results in the second half of last year.

Pre-tax profits fell from £51.5m to £48.2m. The group has adopted a new method of accounting for depreciation and the comparable figure has been restated as a result.

Blue Circle Industries
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pre-tax profit £48.2m (vs £51.5m)
Turnover £408.6m (vs £376.7m)
Net interim dividend 6p (same)
Share price 481p down 15p Yield 6%

The profits fell short of stock market expectations and the shares in the FT 30 share index fell 15p to 431p. The unchanged interim dividend of 6p also caused some disappointment.

Improvement in Britain is expected to be maintained in the second half when domestic profits will also benefit from a full six-month contribution from Aberthaw, bought last March for £26m, the conversion of the Northfleet and Shoreham cement works to a more energy efficient process, and other cost cutting measures.

IN BRIEF Bigger stake for Holmes a Court

Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, has increased his holdings in Fleet Holdings, the Express Newspapers group, from 3 per cent to 4.2 per cent, he confirmed in London yesterday. Mr Holmes a Court continues to make no comment on whether he wants to bid for Fleet in addition to his present offer for Australia's largest company, Broken Hill Proprietary. He said he is satisfied with his holding at present "but in 10 minutes time I may not be".

● **Leo Refrigeration** reported half-term profits yesterday of £2.01m - nearly double last year's disappointing interim of £1.1m. Shares rose on the figures from 250p to 280p - a new high.

Turnover was up from £20.28m to £21.98m and earnings per share nearly doubled from 13.18p to 25.69p. The charges went up from £310.0m to £318.000.

● **Carpet International** returned to the black for the first time in four years during the first half of 1983. On sales down from £54.4m to £40.7m, pre-tax losses of nearly £3m were turned into profits of £790,000.

● **Nigeria** said it will not support a move to raise the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries benchmark price of \$29 a barrel, and would prefer to increase its production.

Surge in leading shares

WALL STREET

New York, (Reuters) - The Wall Street stock market yesterday began higher, but turned mixed as blue chip issues outperformed secondary stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell nearly 19 points on Tuesday and Wednesday, was up about 2.23 points to 1186.48.

In the broader market, declining issues were ahead of gainers about four to three.

International Business Machines 1 1/8 to 115 3/8; General Electric fell 1/2 to 47; General Motors fell 1/8 to 66 3/4; Dupont fell 1/8 to 52; Lockheed fell 3 3/8 to 103.

General Dynamics fell 2 5/8 to 46 1/8; Eastman Kodak fell 1/8 to 67 3/8; Delta Airlines fell 1/8 to 30 and Minnesota Mining fell 1/8 to 79.

NCR was 112 7/8, up 1 7/8; Raytheon at 47 1/2 was down 7/8; Mead Corporation was unchanged at 33; Colson at 34 5/8 was down 1 1/8; Exxon at 37 7/8 was unchanged; Allied Corporation at 50 was up 1/8.

Trade Development Bank Holding S.A.

Luxembourg

Announcement to Shareholders

Approval was given at the General Meeting of Shareholders of Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. ("TDBH") held on August 25, 1983 for all items on the agenda, including a distribution - for each 100 TDBH shares outstanding - of a dividend consisting of US\$ 800 in cash, 27* American Express Company ("Amexco") common shares, and 10 warrants to purchase 20* Amexco common shares at US\$ 27.50 per share.

The following should be considered by shareholders who have TDBH shares in bearer form:

1. As from the distribution date (August 29, 1983) each shareholder should present coupons 12, 13 and 14 of his TDBH shares either directly to one of the paying agents mentioned herebelow, or request his own bank to do so on his behalf. Coupons 12 will be exchanged for cash in US\$, coupons 13 for Amexco common shares, and coupons 14 for Amexco warrants.

2. Upon presentation of coupons 13 and 14 the paying agents will acknowledge to the shareholder his right to the appropriate number of shares and warrants, and, in accordance with his instructions, have the certificates made out, registered, and delivered.

3. There will be no delivery of fractional shares or warrants. Fractional rights will be paid in cash at the market value of the shares and warrants as of the date of presentation of the coupons.

The distribution will continue until October 28, 1983. After October 28, 1983, the Company will sell any shares and warrants of American Express Company not distributed due to non-presentation of coupons 13 and 14, and will hold the US dollar proceeds of such sale for any payment against future presentation of coupons 13 and 14. Presentation of coupons 12, 13 and 14 as outlined hereabove should be made to any of the paying agents listed below:

Manufacturers Hanover Limited, 8 Princes Street, London EC2P 2EN
Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., 2 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg
Manufacturers Hanover Bank Belgium, 13, rue de Ligne, 1000 Brussels
Manufacturers Hanover Banque Nordique, 20 rue de la Ville-Évêque, 75008 Paris
Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, Bockenheimer Landstrasse 51/53, Frankfurt
Trade Development Bank, 30 Monument Street, London EC3R 8LH
Trade Development Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., 34 avenue de la Porte-Neuve, Luxembourg

*calculated after the effect of the 3 for 2 stock split of 10th August 1983

APPOINTMENTS

Change at Midland

Midland Bank Mr Hugh O'Brien, group treasurer, Thomas Cook, is to be assistant manager (financing operations).

The British Overseas and Commonwealth Banks Association: Mr Peter Weller, a general manager of Standard Chartered Bank, has been elected deputy chairman. Mr G. T. Watson has been appointed honorary secretary.

San Alliance Insurance Group: Mr J. Rochelle, manager, computer department, is to be group computer manager of management services and planning division. Mr E. G. Coward is now group commercial underwriting manager with responsibility for home division commercial underwriting and overseas division international underwriting.

Hawker Siddeley Group: Mr S. D. Coward has joined the board of Brook Control Gear as director and general manager. Mr J. L. Fleming has been appointed to the board of Crompton Instruments (South East Asia), as director and general manager.

Supra Sureparts: Mr A. A. Long has become managing director.

Enskilda Securities: Mr William Tyne is joining the board with special responsibility for the company's capital markets activities in the U.S. He will be based in London.

Company	Share Price
ARMOR	10.50
ARMOR	10.50
ARMOR	10.50
ARMOR	10.50
ARMOR	10.50

Base Lending Rates

ARN Bank	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	11 1/4 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %

† Mortgage rates from 10% to 15% depending on terms of mortgage.

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

How the building societies have forgotten about profitability

BUILDING SOCIETY ADVERTISING 1981/82

(£'000s as measured by Mead, "broad" rate card)

	1981		1982	
	Spent	Rank	Spent	Rank
Halifax	4625	2	6808	1
Abbey National	4574	3	5238	2
Lloyds Permanent	3579	3	4850	3
Bradford & Bingley	2504	4	4481	4
Natwest	2533	5	3755	5
Anglia	1614	7	2763	6
Woolwich	2265	4	2480	7
Lancaster	775	8	1795	8
Alliance	489	12	1888	9
Provincial	1190	6	1548	10

Of all the areas of business which have discovered Marketing in recent years, few have embraced it with more enthusiasm than the building societies.

Heavy television advertising campaigns, wave after wave of "new products" in the form of higher-interest accounts aimed at different groups of savers, and the use of popular children's characters such as Mickey Mouse and Paddington Bear all testify to the eagerness with which the hitherto staid and slow societies have taken on board the lessons of the cornflake and soap powder companies.

Despite recent problems, the change of approach and huge increase in marketing expenditure (£44m on advertising last year, compared with £4m ten years ago) seems at first sight to have been amply justified. Last year the building societies recorded the highest net receipts in their history and all but one of the top ten societies, which tend to be the biggest spenders, increased their assets by 17 per cent or more.

Perhaps that suggests that societies' marketing strategies were highly successful," says one building society executive. Mr Richard Lacy, and most societies might agree. "I believe that is a very naive view of our industry's performance," he adds.

"Many societies seem to me to have spent much of the last two years raising extra funds at the highest cost, advertising premium-rate accounts and transferring a huge volume of profitable share account funds.

This, to me, is not carefully planned marketing - it is the strategy of growth at all costs." Mr Lacy is not against building societies spending heavily on advertising and marketing. Indeed, as general manager in charge of marketing at the Leicester Building Society, he has spent as much as most on television commercials and launch of new schemes, most notably the Leicestercard and a tie-up with National Girobank that has given the society 20,000 new Post Office outlets. The Leicester was the 10th biggest society last year, with assets of £2,060m.

His concern is that most societies have lost sight of the need for profitability in the race for growth and market share. In this, they are no different from some consumer marketing



On the road: touring building society in TV commercial

concentrating the society's marketing efforts on increasing its share account business, rather than that of the premium interest accounts, which is what most building societies promote these days. The share account, because it pays out less interest, is naturally the most "profitable", and last year 62 per cent of the Leicester's investment balances was held in share accounts.

This was the highest proportion of any society in the top 16; by contrast, the five biggest societies averaged 56.6 per cent of their business from share accounts and the next 11 only 50 per cent. Three years ago, nearly 80 per cent of the industry's funds was held in share accounts.

The marketing challenge for the Leicester was to make its share account attractive to investors, despite the fact that every other building society was offering the same rate of interest and that other societies had more branches. The answer to the first problem - was the Leicestercard - a discount card available to share account

holders - and the other was the link-up with National Girobank.

The Leicestercard was devised by Mr Lacy and his newly-appointed advertising agency, Wight Collins Rutherford Scott.

According to Mr Robin Wight, the agency chairman: "Research showed us that there was no great difference in the minds of the public between the Leicester and other societies, so we developed the Leicestercard as a 'separator', to distinguish.

The Leicestercard offers share-account holders cheque book accounts and personal loans, together with discounts on a wide range of goods and services.

The launch, in February last year, received great publicity even before the first advertising positioning. The Leicester as the "Morester" - began. "In the space of 10 months, we received applications for 125,000 Leicestercards," says Mr Lacy. "We have now had more than 200,000 by the end of the year it will be 300,000."

In the month after the launch, the Leicester opened a record number of accounts and the growth has continued. Yet the fact remains that the other big societies drew in deposits faster last year by their cruder method of offering interest premiums. The Leicester now seems likely to hedge its bets and follow the other societies' tactics in addition to its own marketing efforts.

The five biggest societies are to offer a 15 per cent differential over basic share rates from September 1, and Mr Lacy believes that Leicester has at least built a stronger springboard from which to challenge them on their own terms. An announcement is possible within the week.

DEREK CROUCH

Interim Report for the Half Year to 30th June, 1983

	1983 First six months £'000's	1982 First six months £'000's	Year £'000's
Turnover	28,625	28,789	29,806
Earnings before Tax and Interest	857	1,345	2,613
Interest Payable	680	834	1,739
Earnings before Tax	177	414	874
Earnings after all Charges and Taxation	285	210	(300)
Dividends	203	203	630
Earnings per Share	2.29p	1.69p	6.5p

Opencast mining in the U.K. is still profitable, but at a reduced level due principally to the continuing restrictions being placed on output over and above contractual amounts.

In the U.S.A., coal markets are also suffering from the world surplus and Power Inc., the company set up in the U.S.A. five years ago, incurred a loss after interest.

Derek Crouch has now taken complete control of Power Inc. with effect from 18th July by buying out, for a nominal sum, the 40% minority interest held by the two American fuel distribution firms who partnered Derek Crouch in setting up the venture in 1978.

The principal asset of Power Inc. is some 20,000 acres of coal-bearing land in central Pennsylvania with reserves of approximately 20 million tons of coal immediately available for strip mining. A £1.75m. washing plant was commissioned by Power Inc. last year to upgrade the quality of the output and open the way to improved outlets and prices and as a result of the improvement of quality Power Inc. has maintained its share of a highly competitive market.

The Board believes that, although the coal market in the U.S.A., as in other countries, is soft at the moment, the longer term prospects are good. Further investment was required to take advantage of future opportunities and the minority partners were unable to go along this road as a result they agreed to sell their interests in Power Inc. to Derek Crouch. They will, however, continue to act as selling agents for Power Inc. although not on an exclusive basis. The Board believes that the consolidation of Derek Crouch's U.S. interest will bring benefits in the longer term.

On the construction side, the Company is continuing its search for more opportunities in private development areas, reducing total reliance on work in the public sector. Claims and final accounts are still proving extremely difficult to progress and finalise. Claims are only taken into account when agreed.

As yet, there are no signs of an upturn in the construction industry.

The Directors of Derek Crouch intend to pay a maintained interim dividend of 1.63p which will be payable on 28th October, 1983.

DEREK CROUCH PLC

Head Office: Peterborough PE6 7UW

Telephone:

Peterborough (0733) 222341 Telex: 32128



Drill on work on the first oil rig at Bannockburn Platform.

Britoil's first interim results - a successful period

SUMMARY OF INTERIM RESULTS

First Six Months (Unaudited)

	1983 £m	1982 £m
Turnover	121.1	102.2
Operating Profit	8.6	3.0
Profit before Taxation	6.2	(1.8)
Profit after Taxation	4.1	(2.0)
Earnings per Share	3.0p	(1.7)p

HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST SIX MONTHS

- Group Restructuring well advanced opening the way to a strong turnaround in trading performance
- Group Sales up 19% over first half of 1982
- Successful Rights Issue and placement of new shares in April raised £24.2m. net of expenses
- Balance Sheet strengthened during the half year
- Group has diversified further from former traditional business and is now predominantly engaged in the development and manufacturing of high technology electronic components
- Continuing improvement and strong profit growth forecast for second half
- Restoration of Interim Dividend
- Tax residence of parent company successfully moved to Hong Kong
- Operating Profit increased to 7% of Sales
- Pretax profit improved by £8.0m. over comparable period in 1982
- Astec International continues strong growth with substantial increases in both turnover and profits
- Net Short Term debt reduced from £42.0m. at end of 1982 to £2.8m.
- Half Year Interest Cost reduced from £4.6m. to £2.4m.
- Operating profit interest cover raised from 0.7 to 3.6 times
- Shareholders funds increased from £27.6m. at 31 December 1982 to £55.1m.
- Gearing reduced from 172% to 48%
- Joint venture in California set up to exploit micro wafer media for computer mass storage systems
- Acquisition of electronics royalty agreement completed
- New logo identifies group's continuing diversification into High Technology Electronics
- 0.5p on the Ordinary Shares has been declared (1982 Nil)
- Trustee status maintained
- Dividends from Hong Kong subsidiaries can now be received free of further tax charge

BSR INTERNATIONAL PLC

To obtain copies of the full interim report, please write to: The Secretary, BSR International PLC, High Street, Wallaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4PG, England

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)	Six Months ended 30.6.83 \$ million	Pro Forma Year ended 31.12.82 \$ million
Turnover	568.8	1,088.0
Operating profit	287.2	544.9
Net interest payable	(12.4)	(30.6)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	274.8	514.3
Taxation		
Supplementary petroleum duty	-	(162.8)
Petroleum revenue tax	(138.1)	(132.1)
Corporation tax	(83.5)	(96.8)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation before extraordinary item	53.2	102.6
Extraordinary item (Privatisation expenses)	-	(3.6)
Profit for the financial period	53.2	99.0
Dividends payable	(16.5)	(18.8)
Amount set aside to reserves	36.7	80.2
Earnings per share	10.64p	n/a
Funds generated from operations less tax paid	276.5	577.3
Additions to fixed assets	153.9	316.3

Note: No comparison has been made with the six months ended 30 June 1982 since during that period the business was wholly under the control of The British National Oil Corporation and figures, prepared on a basis comparable with that used for the six months ended 30 June 1983, are not available. Future interim reports will include a comparison with the same period of the previous year.

Review of Activities

Britoil's equity production for the six months to 30 June 1983 remained steady at around 148,000 barrels of oil per day. During the period, the Company re-affirmed its position as the most active explorer on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. Of the 35 exploration wells drilled in the period, Britoil was involved in 12 of them - 5 as operator and 7 as a venture partner.

Also during the first six months, an application was made to the Government to develop the North Sea's first condensate field, North Brae, in which Britoil has a 30% interest. In addition, the Board agreed to support an application to develop the Victor gas field in which Britoil has a 25% interest.

In the international arena, the Company recently formed, as operator, a bidding group which will apply for Danish acreage later this year. Also, an agreement was concluded which gives Britoil its first venture in the United States and which provides access to a range of on-shore exploration and development acreage. As a result, the Company now has acreage in five overseas countries. In one of these areas, Dubai, development work commenced on the first phase of the Margham condensate field in which Britoil has a one-third interest.

Results

Operating profit for the six months to 30 June 1983 amounted to £287.2 million. The turnover of £568.8 million reflects an average daily oil production of 147,900 barrels (146,600 in 1982) while the deterioration in the dollar, sterling exchange rate, which more than compensated for the fall in the dollar oil price early in 1983, raised the average sterling realisation per barrel to £19.83 (£19.13 in 1982).

Dividends

As indicated at the time of the Offer for Sale, the Directors intend to pay an interim dividend of 3.3p per share. Payment will be made on 14 October 1983 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 15 September 1983.

For a copy of the full interim report please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary, Britoil plc, 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JJ. Existing shareholders will receive the report shortly.

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T

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Enterprise in Energy

Latest row keeps alive America's Cup's capacity to shock

American 'hot air' looks like blowing keel controversy into the law courts

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

One of the most sustained campaigns of attempted rule manipulation — or as some would call it, cheating — in the history of sport is now likely to end up in the law courts. It has for months been predicted that the 1983 America's Cup would be decided by lawyers on land rather than by sailors on the water — and so it looks like turning out.

Not since the body-line series of 1930's, when Douglas Jardine used Harold Larwood to intimidate Don Bradman, have the British been involved in a competition of such overt hostility, though now they are aligned with the Australians against the devious shore-based, cheating tactics of the New York Yacht Club, whose behaviour has been roundly condemned by the *Boston Globe* and *New York Times*. Yet with millions of dollars at stake in seeking to retain the trophy in home Newport Waters, the NYCC seemingly cannot be calmed, even by their own countrymen, into suspending their committee-room hostilities.

The truth of the matter, not hitherto properly clarified in the controversy, is that the NYCC and the US Yacht Racing Union are totally out of order — within the Conditions of Racing, which they themselves drew up by mutual agreement with the seven challenging foreign syndicates — in their attempt unilaterally to have Australia II and the recently modified Victory '83 declared illegal under 12-metre racing regulations.

Frank Kemball, chairman of the challenge committee of the Royal Burnham YC, through which Victory '83 is entered, was one of those who helped draft the Conditions for both the challengers' elimination series and the America's Cup proper. Arriving here yesterday, Kemball was quite emphatic that NYCC protests are so much hot air, and completely invalid. Furthermore, Kemball adds: "If Australia II were to win the elimination final next week and subsequently be declared illegal, Victory '83 would only win in the task of conquering against the defending American boat over my dead body."

"Under Condition 20 in the elimi-

ation series and Condition 22 of the match-proper, the rules are absolutely clear on four points. Firstly, the measurer is bound by the rule interpretation originally applied by the measurement committee in any remeasurement because of an alleged change. Secondly, in the event of a remeasurement, if the measurer is unable to reconcile the change, he must refer the matter back to the committee.

"Thirdly, the findings of the measuring committee are final. Lastly, in the event of conflict between these and other conditions, such as International Yacht Racing Union Rules, the conditions shall be operative. All this was mutually negotiated with the NYCC."

Four days ago the NYCC, having been exposed in their attempt to purchase the Australia II design from the Dutch yard where it was tank-tested, then attempted to discredit Victory '83. When Peter de Savary's yacht fitted wings to its keel, easily detachable, unlike those of Australia II, Mark Vinbury, the NYCC-nominated member of the measurement committee, was invited to inspect the modification. He verbally approved it, but within two hours broke confidence by suggesting to the USYRU that the modification was illegal. The USYRU immediately formally protested to Victory '83.

In a strong worded reply, Bill Ritchie, president of Royal Burnham, stated that the USYRU has no standing or authority in the matter; that Royal Burnham, not Victory '83, is the British challenging authority; that Victory '83 has strictly complied with the rating rules; that both defenders and challengers had agreed on the Conditions, in which the measurement committee's decision is final; and that the matter is therefore closed.

Race to win the rule book war proves an absorbing contest

By Barry Pickthall

When that failed, an attempt was made first to discredit the Australian and British members of the challenge committee, then to re-affirm that the measurement committee of Australia was indeed valid. They pressurized the 14 individual members of the IYRU keelboat technical committee to rule out the design.

When these moves also began to look as if they may fail — the IYRU deliberates on the matter in London on August 30 — the NYCC turned its attention to the Netherlands Ship Model Basin, where Lexden developed the design for both Australia II and Challenge 12.

The Melbourne 12-metre knocked out with France 3 and Advance in the early rounds.

A confession was sought about the extent of Dutch collaboration in the design of the yachts, with the aim of having Australia II disqualified as a result of being a wholly Australian design.

For the Americans, the Cup defence has become a point of national pride. While British and Australian syndicates which meet next week will be the final elimination trials to decide a challenger, are campaigning to win a 100-guinea cup, the Americans are racing for country, continued self-respect and a tourist industry said to be worth \$140m to Newport this summer.

Before this series, the America's Cup has always been a one-sided affair. Not only do the Americans have the advantage of racing in their own waters, but have always administered the rules, ensuring that they remain weighted in their favour.

In the days of those majestic "J" Class yachts, as anachronistic now as the huge mansions that edge Rhode Island Sound, the challenge was to build a yacht to match the Americans, still had to overcome possibly the biggest hurdle of all — first an all-American protest committee and then the New York YC America's Cup Committee, whose rulings on all matters were final.

There would have been no doubts over Australia's keel. Before this series it would have been ruled illegal. Lord Dunsen made the mistake of protesting Defender during his second attempt to win the Cup for Britain in 1895, after one of his crew reported that he had seen the American yacht lying in the water well below her marks on the eve of the first race. The following day, the Lord protested that the American boat had been seen taking in water ballast to improve her heading

moment, but he not only lost the protest, but was blackballed from the New York YC for his pains. The Club Committee went through the motions of re-measuring the two yachts, but by then the ballast tanks in Defender had presumably been emptied for the yacht measured within a fraction of her original freeboard figure.

Other controversial protest decisions from the host nation over the years, particularly in the case of two Australian challengers, Dame Pattie in 1967 and Gretel II in 1970, eventually persuaded the New York Yacht Club to relinquish chairmanship of the protest jury to the International Yacht Racing Union in 1974.

Challengers no longer have to sail to Newport on their bottoms, and



Dame Pattie: provoked controversy in 1967

for this series the rules have been opened up even further after pressure was brought to bear by the challenging syndicates and Peter de Savary in particular, which set up a 12-metre International Class Association to take over much of the rule-making from the New York YC, in an effort to even the odds.

Only the yachts must be designed and built in their home countries. The Americans are planning their hopes that this will rule out Australia II and keep the Cup safely bottled to its plinth for another four years.

Challenging syndicates can now use sails made in America and can purchase spars and hardware from the host nation, provided it is all bought off the shelf.

The Americans are planning their hopes that this will rule out Australia II and keep the Cup safely bottled to its plinth for another four years.

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TENNIS

McEnroe top seed in Open again

New York (Reuters) — John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova will be the top seeds in the singles championships at the United States Open next week, it was announced here.

Jimmy Connors, the men's defending champion, has been seeded third and last year's runner-up, Ivan Lendl, second. The championships begin on August 30 at the national tennis centre.

McEnroe is No 1 seed for the third successive year. He won the title in 1979, 1980 and 1981, but lost to Lendl in the semi-finals last year. Miss Navratilova is the top seed for the second successive year. Last year she was beaten by Pam Shriver in the quarter-finals. Chris Lloyd is the defending champion.

McEnroe's seedings (US women seeded 1-4): McEnroe, 1; Lendl, 2; Connors, 3; Navratilova, 4. Men's seeded 1-16: McEnroe, 1; Lendl, 2; Connors, 3; Navratilova, 4; Borg, 5; Mats Wilander, 6; John McEwen, 7; Ivan Lendl, 8; Jimmy Connors, 9; Andre Agassi, 10; John McEwen, 11; John McEwen, 12; John McEwen, 13; John McEwen, 14; John McEwen, 15; John McEwen, 16.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

New points system should help Enfield

The Alliance Premier League are operating a unique points system which they hope will lead to more entertaining football. Away wins are now being rewarded with three points, a draw with one and a home win with two. Under the new system, Enfield, who have been relegated to the second division, are being rewarded with three points for a win against a team which has been relegated to the second division.

After a day's rest, the four teams from the British Isles will resume the struggle today for the consolation prizes in the European championship here. England and Scotland are among the four teams in the contest for fifth to eighth places, along with Belgium and France. The British incentive is to prevent Belgium or France from finishing fifth. If they do, they could jeopardize Great Britain's chances of being selected for next year's Olympic Games in Los Angeles from the European quota of victories.

In the classification matches today England will play Scotland and Belgium will meet France. The winners in each case will then play off for fifth and sixth places. Scotland had an extremely good

HOCKEY

From Sydney Friskin, Amsterdam
Match in group B against the Netherlands who won by only 2-1. Since then their attack has looked a lot sharper.
If France beat Belgium, as they seem likely to do, there could be another match between them and England whom they held to a 1-1 draw in group A on Wednesday. England's display was so poor as to evoke strong criticism from David Whitaker, their coach, who saw them being beaten by the French attacks towards the end.
Wales and Ireland find themselves in a four-way contest for ninth places and their rivals here are the two weakest teams, Poland and Austria.
While everyone was expecting a West Germany-Netherlands final they are to meet one another in the semi-final round today.

Kaula Lumpur (Reuters)
Malaysia beat India, the 1973 World Cup champions, 3-2, to throw open the five-nation international hockey tournament here.

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Keith Macklin
The sinbin, criticised last season for the absence of follow-up disciplinary proceedings, looks like making its mark this season, thanks to the totting up system. Players will now be automatically suspended when they reach a total of six points, with two points being allocated for a 10 minute spell in the sin bin, and one point for a five minute spell.
At the disciplinary committee hearing yesterday, 19 players had six sin bin points recorded against them, with the Leigh half back, Kent Green, guilty of two sin bin offences. Seven players received suspension for outright offences. The heaviest punishment was inflicted on David Woods, of Dewsbury, who was suspended for four matches.

Wales, who were expected to win the title, were beaten by Scotland 1-0 in the semi-final.

Wales, who were expected to win the title, were beaten by Scotland 1-0 in the semi-final.

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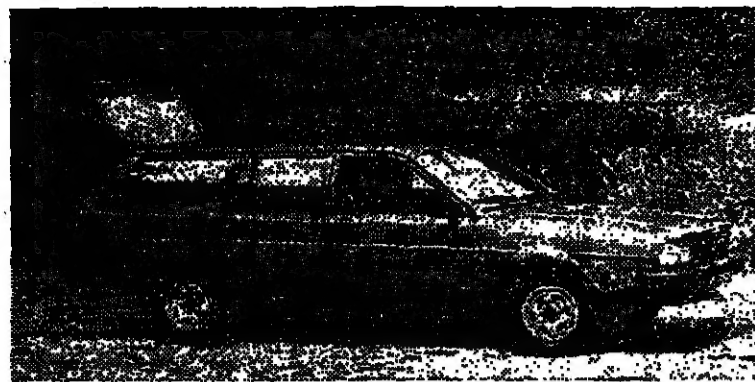
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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Peter Waymark

A rare estate from Germany



A touch of class - the Volkswagen Passat Estate

German motorists tend to be less keen on estate cars than we are and that helps to explain why, in the entire Volkswagen and Audi range, there is only one of the Passat. Characteristically, it is a thoroughly job, carefully engineered, solidly built and well finished.

It is also a sensible size, long enough to give ample space for passengers and luggage (helped by front-wheel drive) and yet not too big to manoeuvre in traffic or take round narrow country lanes. Competing with models like the Ford Sierra, Renault 18 and Peugeot 305, it may not be the cheapest in its class but it is one of the best.

The Passat is available in three versions, according to engine as a 1.6 litre diesel, 1.8 litre petrol (the CL which is the subject of this test) and 1.9 litre petrol with five cylinders. The choice, essentially, is between fuel consumption and performance, the cars becoming quicker, but less economical, as engine sizes increase.

I have covered more than 1,200 miles in the CL in just over a week, most of the time with three other members of the family and a full boot, and the 1.8 unit seems an admirable compromise. The car lacks only two significant features of the more expensive model, a split (one-third/two-thirds) rear seat, and a built-in roof rack.

The first requirement of an estate is that it should be an adequate load carrier. The Passat is a most roomy car, which makes excellent use of its interior space so that even the tallest passengers should not feel cramped in the back seat, and it will take up to five people in comfort.

The flat load platform, slightly compromised by the intrusion of the wheel arches, is 4ft 8in wide, and it can be extended to a length of 5ft 7in if the rear seat is folded down. Even with the back seat in use, the luggage area should be big enough for most needs. The tailgate extends to the floor and a light shines if it is not properly shut.

The engine invariably started first time on the automatic choke (always a reassuring sign) and proved willing and lively, with impressive flexibility for its size. Even with a well laden car, there was enough power available to accelerate without continuous gear changes.

It is also smooth and quiet unit, even though it works hard in top (3,200rpm at 70mph) and would benefit from the fifth gear which is available on the 1.9 litre model. Fuel consumption is impressive. My average over a variety of conditions was 36mpg. An aid to economy is a light on the fascia which comes on when its

time to change to a higher gear; and there is a consumption gauge, said to be accurate to 5 per cent.

The Passat is a pleasure to drive in every respect. The gearchange is crisp and accurate, the steering light and responsive, with good turning circle, and the brakes powerfully effective. Helped by the anti-roll bar (specially added for the estate), the car enjoys almost flat cornering and sure road holding, while good aerodynamics help stability and cut down wind noise.

As the wheel, the driver is favoured with height adjustment for his seat as well as the usual rake and reach, clear instruments and well placed controls. Visibility is helped by having outside mirrors on both sides of the car, as well as a standard tailgate wash/wipe and a large window area.

I have three criticisms. The most important is that the ventilation system is simply not up to the job in hot weather. This may have been an exceptional summer, but even along the motorway we found ourselves having to travel with the windows open, which makes the car noisier and less stable.

The second point is that the ride is on the firm side and while this may be partly a matter of taste, back seat passengers did complain of being shaken up on rough surfaces (where there can also be considerable tyre rumble). Finally, it is irritating not to have a louder tick when the trafficators are in operation. Many were the times I forgot to cancel them.

Vital Statistics

Model: Volkswagen Passat CL Estate. Price: £22,898. Engine: 1,781 cc four cylinder. Power: 100 bhp at 5,000 rpm. Top speed: 105 mph. Official fuel consumption: urban 33.2 mpg, 56 mpg, 42.2 mpg; 75 mpg, 33.2 mpg. Length: 14 ft 10.7 in. Insurance: Group 5.

Getting the hump

After extensive trials, road humps - or "sleeping policemen" - became legal on the public highway of Britain yesterday. Controversy has already been joined - will the humps prove to be a useful aid to road safety or an unwelcome hazard for drivers and motorcyclists?

The idea behind humps, which local authorities may now set up on roads subject to a 30 mph speed limit, is to slow traffic and thus reduce accidents.

Humps have been in operation on private estates for some years but not hitherto on public roads. The Department of Transport decided to legalize them after a series of experiments conducted by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory suggested that they could make a valuable contribution to reducing road casualties.

Eight areas were selected for the experiments, each running for a year. Several sorts of roads were used, from a seaside esplanade to a bus route through a residential estate and shopping parade which normally attracts a large number of heavy vehicles.



Humps for 1/2 mile

In all cases the humps did what they intended. On average the number of accidents was cut by half.

Why, then, do the motoring organizations remain sceptical? The strongest argument against humps has come from the Royal Automobile Club, which sees them not so much a safety measure as a potential danger. Drivers or motorcyclists slowing down as they approach the hump could be thrown off line and actually cause accidents.

The RAC reckons that the money could be put to better use, for even if drivers are slowed by the humps they will only go faster on other roads to make up lost time. The Automobile Association takes a less critical view overall but feels that drivers may deliberately alter their route to avoid humps, increasing congestion on surrounding roads.

A lot will depend on how effectively the humps are sign-posted so that drivers are already slowing down by the time they come to them. The Department of Transport is confident that a mixture of advance warning signs - a symbol within a red triangle with "humps for 1/2 mile" underneath - will meet the case, and there will also be markings in the humps themselves.

The regulations require that humps must be of a certain size and shape (12 ft in length and not more than 4 in high) and can be installed only on stretches of well lit road.

Early warning

Somewhere in the middle of a long haul from Boulogne to Brittany recently I found that oncoming drivers were flashing their lights at me. It happened too often to ignore and eventually I pulled in to check the car. I had not left my headlights on, nor a door partly open and nor, thankfully, was water gushing from my radiator.

I shrugged my shoulders, got back in the car and drove on. There was yet more flashing and then, on rounding a bend, I discovered the answer - a police speed trap.

Had I only known what my fellow drivers had been trying to do, I would have been grateful instead of apprehensive. Getting caught for speeding on the Continent is no laughing matter, because unlike here the police have powers to fine you on the spot.

As it happened, I was all the time obeying the law. But a straight, quiet French road, of which there are many once you leave the towns behind, is a temptation to put the foot down - particularly with a ferry to catch and time running short.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 8.00 **Casualty** (A1). Even without telecast, you can receive this service of news, sport, weather and traffic conditions.
- 8.30 **Breakfast** (A1). With Nick Ross and Debbie Rick. Includes news bulletin at 8.30, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; Sport at 8.45, 7.15 and 8.15; and 8.30. Pop music at 8.45 and 8.30. TV sport at 8.45 and 8.30. Pop music at 8.45 and 8.30. Food and cooking at 8.30-8.40.
- 9.00 **The Muppet Show** (A1). The Muppet Show comedy series starring the energetic pop group, 5.20 Jackanory with instant Sunshine (A1); 5.30 **Wipe Out** (A1); 5.40 **Cartoon**; 5.50 **Take Hart** with Tony Hart (A1). Closedown at 5.55.
- 10.55 **Cricket: The Fourth Test**. Live coverage of the second day's play between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge. Introduced by Peter West. Further coverage this afternoon at 1.40 (BBC1), and on BBC2 between 2.00 and 6.15, with highlights at 11.50.
- 1.05 **News After Noon** with Vivian Greger and Richard Whitmore. 1.20 **Financial Review**. And subcontinental news; 1.25 **Fingerbobs**.
- 1.40 **Cricket: The Fourth Test**. More over from Trent Bridge on the second day's play. Further live coverage can be seen this afternoon on BBC2 (see 2.00 entry).
- 4.20 **Play School** (A1). BBC2 entry for 10.30am; 4.45 **Captain Zep**, Space Detective. Today, he is called on to supervise security arrangements on the planet Synope. There is also a chance to test your powers of observation against those of the S.O.L.V.E. Academy (A1).
- 5.15 **Stopwatch** sports magazine, with Tony Lewis interviewing Test cricketer David Gower. And football commentator John Motson on the secrets of his trade, and aerobics from Suzanne Dando.
- 5.40 **News** with Jan Leeming; 6.00 **South East at Six**; 6.25 **Bugs Bunny**; cartoon.
- 6.30 **Film: The Spy in the Green Hat** (1959). Another fantasy in the series. Napoleon Solo and Ilia (Robert Vaughn and David McCallum) are sent to Sicily to smash a plot to divert the Gulf Stream. Co-starring Jack Palance and Janet Leigh.
- 8.00 **News** with Jan Leeming; 8.30 **South East at Six**; 8.55 **Bugs Bunny**; cartoon.
- 8.30 **Film: The Spy in the Green Hat** (1959). Another fantasy in the series. Napoleon Solo and Ilia (Robert Vaughn and David McCallum) are sent to Sicily to smash a plot to divert the Gulf Stream. Co-starring Jack Palance and Janet Leigh.
- 8.00 **News** with Jan Leeming; 8.30 **South East at Six**; 8.55 **Bugs Bunny**; cartoon.
- 8.30 **Film: The Spy in the Green Hat** (1959). Another fantasy in the series. Napoleon Solo and Ilia (Robert Vaughn and David McCallum) are sent to Sicily to smash a plot to divert the Gulf Stream. Co-starring Jack Palance and Janet Leigh.

tv-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** with Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; Sport at 6.45, 7.45 and 8.30. Guest of the Week, Michael Freed, at 7.00; Composition at 7.25 and 8.25; Chris Tarrant on the Isle of Wight at 8.50 and at regular intervals; Pop video at 8.55; Chocofest at 8.15; Today's TV at 8.55, and Diet with Diana Dora at 8.45.
- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**. Followed by: **Sesame Street**: Easy way to learning about life with the Muppets; 10.25 **Rocket Robin Hood**: the legend updated, in cartoon form; 10.55 **Steamboat Bill**: Steamy days on the river; 11.05 **A Big Country**: Beet and Shynette. The story of a horse dealer and his Chinese assistant; 11.35 **Once Upon a Time**; 11.45 **Flashback to Knowledge**, in 1400 BC; 12.00 **The Woolfitt Virginia Bell's words** Michael Parkinson's voice; 12.10 **Rainbow**: repeated at 4.00; 12.30 **By the Way**: Tourist in South Wales mining valley of yesterday.
- 1.00 **News** 1.20 **Thames news**; 1.30 **About Britain**: The Muckle Toon Fiddlers: Music from a small Dumfries and Galloway town; 2.00 **The 1980 All British Country Music Festival** in Brighton; 2.30 **Racing from Ascot**: We see the 2.35, 3.05, 3.40.
- 4.00 **Children's ITV: Rainbow** (A1); 4.20 **Bugs Bunny**; cartoon; 4.30 **Cartoon**; 4.40 **Cartoon**; 4.50 **Cartoon**; 5.00 **Cartoon**; 5.10 **Cartoon**; 5.20 **Cartoon**; 5.30 **Cartoon**; 5.40 **Cartoon**; 5.50 **Cartoon**; 6.00 **Cartoon**; 6.10 **Cartoon**; 6.20 **Cartoon**; 6.30 **Cartoon**; 6.40 **Cartoon**; 6.50 **Cartoon**; 7.00 **Cartoon**; 7.10 **Cartoon**; 7.20 **Cartoon**; 7.30 **Cartoon**; 7.40 **Cartoon**; 7.50 **Cartoon**; 8.00 **Cartoon**; 8.10 **Cartoon**; 8.20 **Cartoon**; 8.30 **Cartoon**; 8.40 **Cartoon**; 8.50 **Cartoon**; 9.00 **Cartoon**; 9.10 **Cartoon**; 9.20 **Cartoon**; 9.30 **Cartoon**; 9.40 **Cartoon**; 9.50 **Cartoon**; 10.00 **Cartoon**; 10.10 **Cartoon**; 10.20 **Cartoon**; 10.30 **Cartoon**; 10.40 **Cartoon**; 10.50 **Cartoon**; 11.00 **Cartoon**; 11.10 **Cartoon**; 11.20 **Cartoon**; 11.30 **Cartoon**; 11.40 **Cartoon**; 11.50 **Cartoon**; 12.00 **Cartoon**; 12.10 **Cartoon**; 12.20 **Cartoon**; 12.30 **Cartoon**; 12.40 **Cartoon**; 12.50 **Cartoon**; 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22 FRIDAY AUGUST 26 1983

Steel gives an ultimatum on party manifesto

By Our Political Staff

Mr David Steel has made clear to his fellow MPs that should he be stripped of authority over the contents of the Liberal Party election manifesto he would find it impossible to continue as leader of the party.

All 16 of Mr Steel's party colleagues in Parliament have received a four-page letter in which he sets out his views on control of the manifesto and other issues to come before the Liberal Assembly in Harrogate next month.

Mr Steel insists that he is "certainly willing and indeed keen to continue the leadership of the party". But his letter is said to be critical of both the Association of Liberal Councillors and the Young Liberals.

MPs were at pains to play down the suggestion that Mr Steel's letter constitutes another threat to resign, in a postscript Mr Steel recalls that the only threat he has made to resign was over the formulation of the Lib-Lab Pact when Mr James Callaghan was prime minister.

With Mr Steel on his sabbatical and no meetings planned before the assembly, MPs maintained it would have been unusual had he not written to them setting out his position.

A telephone call by *Times* to Mr Steel's home at Etrick Bridge confirmed that the Liberal leader, though much recovered from his viral infection, is sticking by his intention not to speak to the press until the assembly.

Though the word "resign" does not appear in the letter to MPs, the plain message is that were the assembly to take away

Alliance 'real threat'

Continued from page 1

the leader's control over the manifesto, Mr Steel believes his position would be untenable.

Supporting Mr Steel in an interview on BBC radio yesterday, Mr David Penhaligon, MP for Truro, recalled a 20-minute debate at a past assembly when a brilliant speech by one MP persuaded delegates to vote for free public transport in Britain.

He said: "Everyone knew that was lunacy. They can't elevate a 20-minute debate to being some sort of message from on high that I and the rest of the parliamentary party are supposed to carry around from then onwards."

"In essence what the leader is saying is that the Liberal Party, if it really wants to get into the business of getting power in Britain, really does have to do something about its party fringe at times," he said.

Mr Penhaligon did not elaborate on the identity of those "fringe" elements, but it is believed that about a third of Mr Steel's letter refers to actions of the Association of Liberal Councillors and the Young Liberals.

Mr Steel's comments were said by one MP to be "less than flattering".

The National League of Young Liberals and a grassroots organization called Campaign 83 are backing the Daventry Liberal Association motion calling on the assembly to remove the party leader's veto over the manifesto.

Neither Mr Penhaligon nor Mr Alan Beith, believe the controversial proposal has any chance of success.

provided it can work together without the Labour-style wrangling and in-fighting which has broken out in the wake of the election result, shows every sign of putting forward policies within the free enterprise framework. Mrs Thatcher's analysis that this is where the main political threat to the Conservatives will lie.

● The Prime Minister returned to work at 10 Downing Street yesterday after a 13-day holiday by Lake Zug in Switzerland.

She was without the dark glasses which she wore after the eye operation at the beginning of this month. She told staff she felt fine.

Krakatoa volcano disaster 100 years ago today



Spectacular present-day photographs show the volcano between Java and Sumatra is still active a century after it erupted killing 36,000 people. The explosion was heard 3,000 miles away and meteorological effects could be seen in Britain. To mark the centenary the Natural History Museum opens an exhibition this morning, admission free.

Detained leaders moved out of Karachi

Zia may open talks with parties

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

Speculation was rife in Karachi last night that the martial law regime of President Zia ul-Haq has decided to open talks with the political parties about the future of the country's democracy.

There was no official confirmation, but the speculation was set off by an administration decision to move at least four of the party leaders from detention in Karachi to a remote government rest house 50 miles away.

Together with the reported presence in the city of senior officers of the Pakistan Intelligence Bureau, the move is taken as a portent that General Zia is relaxing his earlier reluctance to involve the parties.

Virtually every organ of public opinion in Pakistan has called for a dialogue with the party leaders about the move back to an elected democracy which General Zia announced unilaterally on August 12.

He has said that the electoral process will be completed by March, 1985 under a constitution amended to suit his tastes. The political parties have been calling for the immediate

abolition of martial law, the restoration of the 1973 constitution and for elections now.

Public announcements of the President have taken a line much softer towards the politicians than his former tone. He said in Karachi on Wednesday that the politicians were "as much patriots as we are" and declared that he had been meeting political leaders from time to time in the past, and would continue this practice in the future.

If the President is planning such talks it will do much to take the sting out of the present campaign of unrest against his rule, and his proposed constitutional changes. It will in particular defuse a dramatic appeal circulating in Pakistan yesterday under the name of Begum Nasrat Bhutto, the widow of the executed Prime Minister.

Mr Bhutto who is sitting and in Paris, is chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, her husband's former party, and the PPP distributed the statement to newspapers and news agencies.

The Government Information Department immediately asked newspapers not to use a word of it.

The appeal urges Sindhis to continue and intensify the struggle, but it is principally aimed at the inhabitants of Punjab, Pakistan's most influential province.

Although Punjab dissidents have been courted arrest in ones and twos each day the same surge of popular feeling against the regime as has driven the Sindhis to widespread revolt has not materialized there. A Punjab rising is essential if the present agitation is to succeed.

The statement said in part: "To the people of Punjab, we the brave warriors of Punjab, we say we know you are anxious to participate in the movement for national redemption. ... Now is the time to pressure your party office holders and Parliamentarians; tell them to come out."

"We say, listen to the bell that tolls. The bell is tolling, its sounds are echoing. Hear its call. ... The opportunity to act is here. It is a historic opportunity."

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

Continued from page 1

France would not interfere directly in the civil war between President Habré and Mr Goukouni Oueddei, leader of the Libyan-backed rebels. It had nothing against Mr Oueddei except that in invading the Libyans to intervene, he has provoked the internationalization of the conflict.

President Mitterrand admitted that getting the various parties involved round a negotiating table could prove difficult, adding in that context that it would be necessary to have "in depth talks" with President Habré.

The Chadian President is likely to be reluctant to agree to negotiations without the prior commitment of the withdrawal of all Libyan troops from the north, however.

M. Mitterrand also warned Libya that it would be "imprudent" to count on the passage of time to wear down the French determination to obtain a fair settlement.

While expressing total opposition to a partition of Chad as part of that settlement, he did not rule out the possibility of

the creation of a federation between the traditionally warring north and south, adding quickly, however, that it was not for France to decide.

On Libyan ambitions in the area, M. Mitterrand made clear that his difference of view with the United States was not so wide as commonly believed.

● **NDJAMENA:** Mr Henu's visit here came as a surprise to the Chad Government, who became aware of it in the middle of a Cabinet meeting to discuss the crisis (Jon Swain writes). The Defence Minister carried a personal message from President Mitterrand to President Habré.

Some observers interpreted the visit as a sign that the military situation had become "preoccupying" again after the Libyan military build-up over the past few days.

Others interpreted it as a clear sign that French diplomatic attempts to find a solution to the war and to secure a Libyan military withdrawal have reached a critical phase where it has become essential to obtain M. Habré's approval.

Leading article, page 9

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

Wish you were here - Nottingham artists at the seaside, Castle Museum, Nottingham; Mon to Sun 10 to 5.45. (Closes Sept 25).

General

Carnival Glass - Poor Man's Tiffin, Castle Museum, the Castle, Nottingham; Mon to Sun 10 to 5.45. (Closes Sept 10).

Festival of Bread: baking, milling, harvesting exhibits and demonstrations

Ashey Parish, Shropshire; cooking starts at 10.

Opening of Music Festival, Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, Yorkshire, 7.

Sheep Dog Trials, Platt Wood Farm, via Lyme Park, Stockport, 8 until dusk (until Sunday).

Flower Festival, Crowland Abbey, East Street, Crowland, Lincs, 9 to 9.

Flower Festival and exhibition: James Slade, Bolton Parish Church, Churchgate, Bolton, 9 am.

Music

The Malings Proms: Recital by the Melos Ensemble: Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, 7.30.

Concert by the Somerset Chamber Orchestra, Yaxton Parish Church, Yaxton, Somerset, 7.30.

Recital by Colin Carr (cello) and Francis Grier (piano), Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8.

Exhibitions in progress

Works of Albert Irvin, Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham; Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun and Mon (closes Sept 17).

Soveto: The patchwork of our lives; Carmarthen Museum, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30 (closes Sept 10).

Paintings by Mary Charlton, Festival Gallery, Pierpoint Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (closes Sept 10).

Work of Sandro Chia, figurative painter, Fruitmarket Gallery, 25 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 7, Sun 2 to 6 (closes Sept 17).

Blue Bird and other works by Philippe Beale, Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (closes Sept 25).

Take a Seat: chairs by British furniture makers, The Workshops, Market Court, Cirencester, Glos; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (closes Sept 24).

Food prices

Supplies of fresh herring seem to have been unaffected by the EEC dispute over North Sea quotas and the consequent ban on fishing by certain countries, including Britain.

The West of Scotland fishery has filled the gap, and at 60p to 70p a pound, herring is one of the week's best buys. Mackerel, fillets, too, are recommended as an accompaniment to the salad season.

Chops, normally an extravagant way of buying meat, are none-the-less ideal for barbecues. Prices of both lamb and pork generally range from about £1 a lb to nearly £2, depending on the cut, but there are some cheaper buys: New Zealand lamb chops in Fine Fare 99p, frozen pork chops in Sainsbury's 99p, and a whole leg of English lamb at as little as £1.20 a lb should not be missed.

Autumn and winter supplies of vegetables will not be as plentiful as usual. Acute shortages nowadays are unlikely, but if you have a large freezer, take the opportunity now to buy before prices rise. French and runner beans at about 40p a pound are excellent quality.

Other good buys include salad tomatoes, 20p a pound, beefsteak tomatoes only slightly dearer, peaches and pears 10p-12p, honeydew melons about 25p each and Discovery apples becoming cheaper about 35p a pound.

Roads

London and South-east: A406: Delays on A406 Road (North Circular Road) Edmonton, A23: Delays on Brighton Road near Hickstead road round, A4, A33, A329: Heavy traffic in Reading town centre for rock festival.

M25: M25 Delays, traffic share 20 (M1) and junction 30 (Rothwell). M63: Northbound slip road at the M62 closed. Alternative route signposted near Preston, Lancashire.

Wales and West: A353, A354: Extra traffic in Weymouth for Royal Regatta, M5: Lane closures between junctions 21 and 24 (Weston Super Mare to Bridgewater) Scotland: Extra traffic for Edinburgh Military Tattoo and International Festival, A915, A885: Heavy traffic delays on Highland Road, lane closures on Great Western Road, near Cromwell St, Glasgow.

Information supplied by the A.A.

Weather

N and NW Scotland will be cloudy with some outbreaks of drizzle, and later in the day more widespread and persistent rain will spread from the W.

6am to midnight

London, central S England, E Midlands: Dull at first, sunny periods developing, dry; wind NE moderate; max temp 23C (73F).

W England: Dull at first, sunny periods developing, cloud persisting on exposed coasts; wind NE fresh or strong on exposed coasts; max temp 22C (72F). Cooler on coasts.

E Anglia, E England: Dull at first, sunny periods developing inland, cloud persisting near coasts; wind NE moderate or fresh; max temp 22C (72F). Cooler on coasts.

W Midlands, SW England, S Wales: Fog patches soon dispersing, dry, sunny periods; wind NE light or moderate; max temp 22C (72F).

Charnley: Sunny intervals, perhaps a shower; wind NE moderate or fresh; max temp 21C (70F).

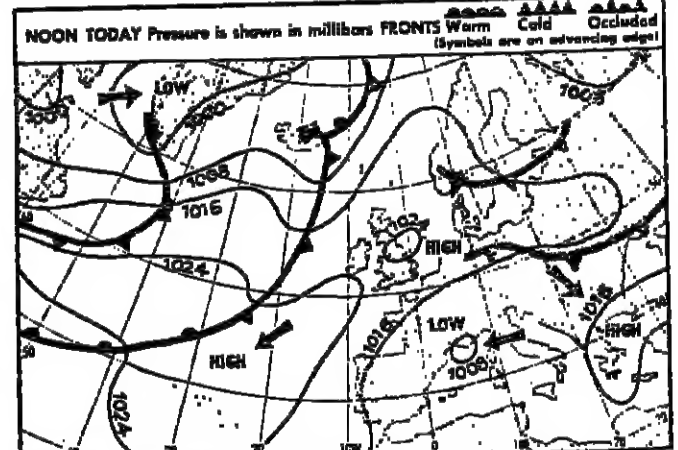
N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, central N, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Mainly dry, rather cloudy, some light or sunny intervals; wind variable light; max temp 19C (66F).

Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dundee, Dry, sunny intervals, wind SW light or moderate; max temp 20C (68F).

Central Highlands: Mostly cloudy, outbreaks of drizzle, hill fog; wind SW moderate; max temp 17C (63F).

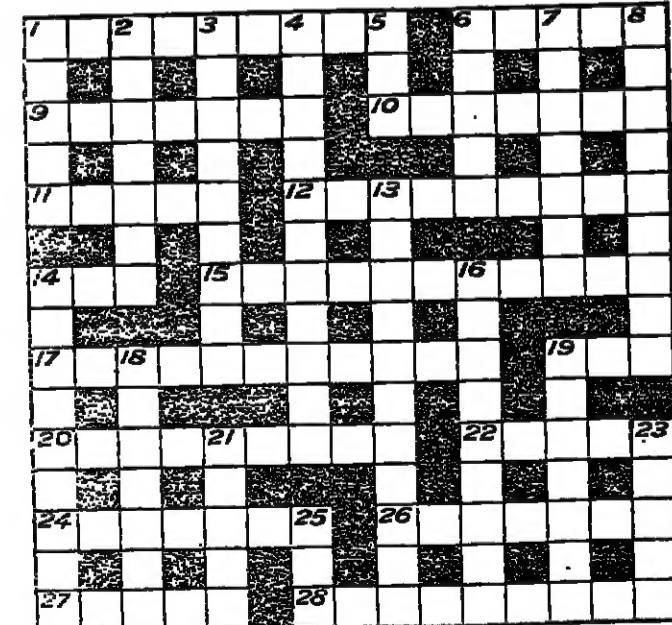
N Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, a little drizzle at times, more persistent rain later; wind SW moderate; max temp 14 to 16C (57-61F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Some rain at times in N otherwise mostly dry with sunny intervals. Temperatures mostly near normal.



High tides		Sun Rain		Sun Rain	
Location	Time	Max	Min	Max	Min
London Bridge	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
Cardiff	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
Exeter	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
Gloucester	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
Leamington	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
London Bridge	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
Cardiff	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
Exeter	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
Gloucester	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0
Leamington	12.00	22.7	15.0	22.7	15.0

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,218



- ACROSS
- 1 Was it form-filling that sent him mad? (15,4).
 - 2 But grandeur was no breaker of tables (5).
 - 3 Act revised to include nude entertainment (7).
 - 4 Young devil pops in to beat one of the drums (7).
 - 5 What a new school needs to get to be progressive? (5).
 - 6 In Corman mix-up I'm exceedingly gloomy (9).
 - 7 A little sun fish (3).
 - 8 Rainbow trout so amused to be thus made monochrome? (7,4).
 - 9 Critic of Wordsworth as sonneteer seen in the Abbey? (15,6).
 - 10 Flier in a cat-fight (5).
 - 11 Stop in, in tricky event, without hesitation (9).
 - 12 One's returned in state - hence Columbus (5).
 - 13 Bordered on being an object of ridicule to newsmen (7).
 - 14 Sounds like landlord's table inside the ship (7).
 - 15 Pass on and leave a holy man in California (5).
 - 16 Temperamental Muppet was so obstinate! (9).
- DOWN
- 1 Black stone home whither perhaps 10 came (5).
 - 2 Be right in the red if this describes your cheques (7).
 - 3 Historian's ordered out among miracle-play villains (9).
 - 4 Met blow-out as one might describe it (11,11).
 - 5 Amphibian's decapitated - not right (3).
 - 6 Married French girl-friend so-called (8).
 - 7 Hall perhaps in Westminster district in this tongue (7).
 - 8 Sail hoisted when slow bowler captures a Kent opener (9).
 - 9 Lead-swinging art master unwilling to leave? (11).
 - 10 First singer in tears if more than one such rebuke (9).
 - 11 Terribly phib. I ride in a sort of airship (9).
 - 12 What fans do in French - so English (7).
 - 13 Foreign leader away from the coast in the country (7).
 - 14 A riot that's out of proportion (5).
 - 15 Some had dedicated what is put on (5).
 - 16 A pickpocket - one that's fairly lucky (3).

Warning off

Have you warned your children lately not to go with strangers? The Central Office of Information have issued a timely memorandum, on the subject. It emphasizes that they should never accept sweets or go anywhere with strangers, no matter how kind the person may appear to be. They should always come straight home, or let parents know exactly where they are. And if they're going out to play, they should be told to stay with their friends and not wander off alone.

New transmitter

Channel 4 will increase its potential viewing figures in the South-East area by 300,000 from today when the Darvel television transmitting station opens.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Robert Walpole, 1st earl of Orford, statesman. Houghton Hall, Norfolk, 1676; Joseph-Michel Montgolfier, balloonist, Annonay, France, 1740; Antoine-Louis Lavoisier, scientist, Paris, 1743; Albert, Prince Consort of Queen Victoria, Coburg, Germany, 1819; John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, novelist and governor general, 1935-40; of Canada, Perth, 1875; Guillaume Apollinaire, poet, Paris, 1880; Deaths: William James, philosopher and psychologist, Chocoma, New Haven, 1915; Lon Chaney, film actor, New York, 1930; Frank Harris, writer, Nice, 1921; The Romans led by Julius Caesar, invaded Britain 55BC; Edward III defeated the French at Crecy, 1346.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	29.10	27.70
Canada \$	33.50	32.50
Denmark Kr	1.92	1.84
France F	14.94	14.24
Germany DM	8.54	8.57
Japan Yen	142.12	138.77
Italy Lira	1.97	1.92
Netherlands Gld	247.00	235.00
Norway Kr	363.00	365.00
Portugal Esc	4.64	4.42
Spain Ptas	116.4	110.7
Sweden Kr	189.00	188.00
Switzerland Fr	233.00	222.00
USA \$	12.30	11.70
Yugoslavia Dnr	3.37	3.21

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency.

Retail Price Index: 336.5 London; the FT index closed up 0.8 at 717.4.

Top films

Top box-office films in London:

- 1 Octopussy
- 2 Return of the Jedi
- 3 Superman II
- 4 Mission: Impossible
- 5 The Meaning of Life
- 6 Flashdance
- 7 Quatre
- 8 Educating Rita
- 9 The Outsiders
- 10 Heat and Dust

The top five in the provinces:

- 1 Octopussy
- 2 Superman II
- 3 Educating Rita
- 4 Heat and Dust
- 5 First Blood

Compiled by Screen International

The papers

The Harare Herald, the state-owned Zimbabwe daily, said that the talks between Dr Perez de Cuellar and the South African officials on the future of Namibia was "an indication of how seriously the world today views the situation".

Dr Perez de Cuellar is the first UN chief to visit South Africa in more than 10 years. It may not be quite coincidental that he is doing so on the eve of Namibia Day when the people of the occupied territory will be celebrating 17 years of armed struggle.

The Daily Mail talks of the impotence of the two unlovely executive members of the infamous Paedophile Information Exchange giving press interviews in which they gloried in their unwholesome urges to have sex with children. It is plainly wrong, the paper says, that these law-breakers should be allowed to carry on and proselytize for their nauseating PIE, an organization which explicitly aims at promoting sex with children in defiance of elementary morality and in contravention of the law. There is no excuse for any further delay in bringing them and their associates to book. The Attorney General should institute prosecution immediately.

Zoo guide

The Zoological Society of London has published a handsome new guide to the London Zoo at Regent's Park. The 50-page booklet is available from the Retail Department, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, or at the zoo. 75p (plus 35p p & p).

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Lighting-up time

London 8.20 pm to 5.34 am
Bristol 8.41 pm to 5.44 am
Edinburgh 8.54 pm to 5.58 am
Manchester 8.50 pm to 5.58 am
Penzance 8.50 pm to 5.58 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud, 1, fair, 2, rain, 3, sun.

City	C	F
Belfast	20	68
Birmingham	20	68
Blackpool	20	68
Bristol	20	68
Cardiff	20	68
Edinburgh	20	68
Exeter	20	68
Gloucester	20	68
Leamington	20	68
London	20	68
Manchester	20	68
Nottingham	20	68
Sheffield	20	68
Southampton	20	68
Stoke	20	68
Swansea	20	68
Torquay	20	68
Warrington	20	68
Wolverhampton	20	68
Wrexham	20	68

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Worthing, 27C (81F). Lowest day temp: Lough, 15C (59F). Highest night temp: Lough, 12C (54F). Lowest night temp: Lough, 8C (46F). Wind: 111 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm 1,022 mbars, steady. 1,000 mbars = 29.93 in.

Around Britain

Location	Sun Rain	Max	Min	Location	Sun Rain	Max	Min
St Andrews	0.5	22.7	15.0	Guernsey	0.5	22.7	15.0
Scarborough	0.5	22.7	15.0	Jersey	0.5	22.7	15.0
Birmingham	0.5	22.7	15.0	Newcastle	0.5	22.7	15.0
Cardiff	0.5	22.7	15.0	Nottingham	0.5	22.7	15.0
Exeter	0.5	22.7	15.0	Sheffield	0.5	22.7	15.0
Gloucester	0.5	22.7	15.0	Southampton	0.5	22.7	15.0
Leamington	0.5	22.7	15.0	Stoke	0.5	22.7	15.0
London Bridge	0.5	22.7	15.0	Swansea	0.5	22.7	15.0
Cardiff	0.5	22.7	15.0	Torquay	0.5	22.7	15.0
Exeter	0.5	22.7	15.0	Warrington	0.5	22.7	15.0
Gloucester	0.5	22.7	15.0	Wolverhampton	0.5	22.7	15.0
Leamington	0.5	22.7	15.0	Wrexham	0.5	22.7	15.0

Abroad

City	C	F	City	C	F
Algeria	22	72	Madrid	22	72
Amsterdam	22	72	Moscow	22	72
Antwerp	22	72	New York	22	72
Athens	22	72	Paris	22	72
Bahia	22	72	Rome	22	72
Batavia	22	72	Seoul	22	72
Bombay	22	72	Singapore	22	72
Buenos Aires	22	72	Tokyo	22	72
Calcutta	22	72	Yokohama	22	72
Canton	22	72			
Cebu	22	72			
Colon	22	72			
Dacca	22	72			
Delhi	22	72			
Hankow	22	72			
Hong Kong	22	72			
Kobe	22	72			
London	22	72			
Lyons	22	72			
Manila	22	72			
Medan	22	72			
Shanghai	22	72			
Singapore	22	72			
Sourabaya	22	72			
Tientsin	22	72			</